CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

REPORT

ON THE

BLUE-BOOK FOR 1879.

CAPE TOWN:
SAUL SOLOMON & CO., STEAM PRINTING OFFICE, ST. GEORGE'S-STREET
1880.

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REPORT ON THE RESULTS SHOWN IN THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1879.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

1. The Statistical Summary embraces comparative tables on the following subjects: viz., Revenue, Expenditure, Public Debt, *a* Imports and Exports, and Sales and Grants of Land, from 1850; Banking Transactions; Education, from 1860; Operations of the Railway, Telegraph and Postal Departments, from 1873; with a resumé of the principal results of the Censuses of 1865 and 1875.

COUNCILS, ASSEMBLY AND FRANCHISE.

2. By Proclamation of the 12th September, 1878, the Fifth Colonial Parliament was dissolved. The Legislative Council Elections took place in the month of November, and the percentage proportions of electors who actually voted to those on the roll stood as under.—Western Electoral Province, 65·65; N.W. do., 35·98; S.W. do., 56·47; Midland do., 41·84; S.E. do., 34·16; N.E. do., 47·87 (average equal to 46·98). In the Eastern Electoral Province (5,191 voters) there was no poll.

3. The total number of electors registered in 1878-9 was 44,675, and although the lists then contained 1,150 fewer names than in 1876-7, the figures are considerably higher than those for the years previous thereto. From the 1875 Census Report is derived the following (corrected) information:—persons to a representative (House of Assembly) 10,602 *b*; males to do., 5,435; electors to do., 632; persons to an elector, 17·44; males do., 8·94.

4. The Franchise is determined by the occupation of house property of the value of £25, or receipt of salary at the rate of £50 per annum (or wages of £25 per annum with board and lodging).

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT RETURN.

5. Herein is exhibited in a tabular form the names, emoluments, and length of service, with dates of first and last appointments of all officers of the several departments of the regular Public Service at the end of 1879, together with particulars regarding certain functionaries in the Postal, Medical, Railway and Telegraph Departments. In a supplementary return are shown certain changes in the Establishment effected between 1st January and 15th April, 1880.

PERSONAL FEES.

6. Personal Fees are authorised by Act of Parliament or Government Notice, and the amount received by each Government Officer appears opposite his name in the Civil Establishment Return.

SECURITY.

7. The second portion of this statement treats of the Postal Service. The sums for which Postmasters' sureties are liable vary from £5 to £400, the average amount per bond being, in 1879, £47, the number of Postal Officers 193, and the total amount assured, £9,106. The number of Officers in positions of trust, such as Heads of Departments, Civil Commissioners, Stamp Distributors, House Duty

a In detail for the last ten years.
b *i.e.* To every 10,602 of the inhabitants of the Colony there was in 1875, one member in the House of Assembly, and among every 17·44 persons one elector was registered.

Receivers, Cape Mounted Riflemen, who were employed at the end of 1879, and had executed security bonds, was 255; and the amount of these bonds £141,850, or an average of £556 per bond. The Colonial Orphan Chamber is interested in 124 cases, and the Provident Insurance Company in three. Sixty bonds, representing a sum of £32,750, were at the end of 1879 in various stages of progress towards completion.

PENSIONS.

8. The sum total of Pensions payable for the year 1879 is £33,688, an increase of £3,121 8s. 9d. on that shown in 1878. Eight persons drawing £2,135 4s. 5d. a year being taken off the ordinary Civil List, and fifteen at £3,516 8s. 2d. added, the net increase under this head is seven at £1,381 3s. 9d. annually. Of Field-cornets receiving pensions of £5 per annum under Notice of October, 1837, there are four less. While the amount paid to sufferers in the Kafirs wars, 1835-1851, has been reduced by £4 2s. 0d., that allowed to sufferers in the last disturbances has been augmented, through settlement of new cases, to £2,145 3s. 9d. a year, in all. The increase under the head of Special is therefore £677 4s. 3d. Military includes men belonging to the late "Cape Corps," now in the receipt of £1,635 5s. 6d. in sums varying from 2d. to 2s. per diem, F.A. & M.P. and C.M.R. of £1,107 3s. 6d., and Yeomanry of £141. 5s. 0d. per annum; in this instance the excess on 1878 is £1,053 0s. 9d. According to the Appropriation Accounts the expenditure on pensions and gratuities during 1878-9 was £31,798.

MILITARY.

9. The disbursements in 1878-9 on Colonial Defence (Vote 9) amounted to £145,004; besides which the expenditure during the same period, under the War Loan Act, was £649,715. Great Britain expended in 1879, £340,033 for Military Protection, and £104,800 on the Navy at the Cape of Good Hope.

10. The regiment of Cape Mounted Riflemen is enrolled under Act No. 9 of 1878, and consisted on 31st December, 1879, of 39 officers and 867 non-commissioned officers and men; the corresponding figures for 1878 are 34 and 838. The number of horses is 537, and the corps has 789 carbines in charge and 6 field guns. Expenditure in 1878-9 on C.M.R. was £120,038.

11. Under Act 5 of 1878 the three regiments of Cape Mounted Yeomanry serve. The enrolled strength is 55 officers and 857 men, horses are 895 in number, and 865 carbines have been issued. Expenditure in 1878-9 on Yeomanry was £7,920.

12. The Volunteer Forces are subject to the provisions of Act No. 10 of 1878, and their strength in December, 1879, when nine corps (not returned) were about to be disbanded, was 146 officers and 2,618 men, a decrease of 29 officers and 759 men on 1878, at which time the number enrolled had reached the maximum. Equipment, 2,651 snider rifles, 13 field guns, and 489 horses. Expenditure in 1878-9 on Volunteers was £11,009.

13. For service on the Northern Border of the Colony a force of 79 officers and men has been recently raised.

14. The number of Burghers and Levies registered under Section 7 of Act 7 of 1878, is respectively 43,925 and 74,144.

LEGISLATION.

15. This return contains a chronological list of all Acts and Proclamations promulgated in 1879, and of the more important Government Notices published in that year.

CONSULS.

16. Consuls, Vice-Consuls, and Consular Agents are appointed at the chief ports of the Colony, and this statement shows their names and those of the countries they represent.

HEADS OF REVENUE.

17. This chapter is supplementary to the one containing Accounts of Revenue, Estimated and Actual, J., pages 2-17, and the various heads of receipt are described, and the rates and authority for levy of, the several taxes are mentioned according, as far as possible, to the order adopted in that statement. On pages 28 and 29 will be found enumerated the sources of revenue in Basutoland and the Transkei.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

18. For the year 1878-9 the Colonial Revenue was £2,082,889 5s. 10d., an increase of £406,889 5s. 10d. on the estimated amount, of £517,463 7s. 11d. on the receipts in 1877-8, and of £479,971 on the previous maximum reached (1875) Decreases, as compared with 1877-8 are as follows:—£4,831 under Land Sales, owing to passing of Act 14 of 1878, and £2,332 under Miscellaneous (casual). Fees of Office and Court have been collected by stamps since August, 1878, and the income from Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Court has been diminished by £6,551. New items—House Duty (Act 20 of 1878) adding £58,420, and Excise Duty (Act 2 of 1878) £63,522. The chief increases are—

Customs and Harbour Dues		£147,821	Revenue now being		£923,597
Land Revenue ...	...	18,142	Do.	do.	108,466
Transfer Dues ...	...	14,621	Do.	do.	86,703
Auction Dues ...	...	7,308	Do.	do.	26,960
Stamps and Licences	...	18,891	Do.	do.	118,872
Railway Receipts	...	121,617	Do.	do.	396,162
Telegraph „	...	6,214	Do.	do.	29,633
Postal „	...	9,060	Do.	do.	70,542
Transkei Revenue	...	11,887	Do.	do.	20,773

Rent brought in £3,855; Bank Notes duty, £8388; Succession duty, £7,565; Sales of Government Property, £11,943; Interest, £21,851; Reimbursements, £58,107; Miscellaneous and Special, £6,328. Including loans, the Colonial Revenue for 1878-9 was £5,661,160.

Basutoland Revenue for the year 1878-9 amounted to £15,551, the principal sources being hut tax £12,148 10s. and licences £2,634.

The receipts for 1877-8 were £18,712.

19. The Colonial expenditure chargeable as arrears, 1875, brought to charge in 1878-9, amounted to £1,721 5s. 4d., of which £1,435 8s. 9d. was unauthorized.

20. Expenditure under Acts of Parliament in 1878-9 amounted to £2,078,300, whereof £649,715 was expended under the War Loan Act, £61,606 went for interest during Railway Construction and cost of raising loan, £153,632 was spent on Harbour Works and Bridges over Orange and Kei Rivers, £293,864 on Western, £679,250 on Midland and North-Eastern, and £245,732 on East London & Queen's Town Railway Systems, and £5,500 for Telegraph Construction.

21. During the financial year 1878-9 the sum total disbursed under votes was £1,916,633, the corresponding figures for the two previous years were respectively £1,660,016 and £1,495,833. In the annexed table is shewn the expenditure by votes during each of the last three financial years:—

	1878-79.	1877-78.	1876-77.		1878-79.	1877-78.	1876-77.
	£	£	£		£	£	£
The Governor	8,197	10,510	7,065	High Sheriff	2,768	3,858	2,618
The High Commissioner ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	Commis. of C.L. & Pub. Works	5,016	4,363	4,120
Colonial Secretary	8,446	8,117	7,025	Ports and Harbours	13,442	12,607	8,862
Medical	57,606	55,646	54,018	Crown Forests	4,299	4,105	4,036
Police and Gaols	113,842	96,086	82,780	Hydraulic Engineer	1,790	2,000	1,136
Public Worship	14,780	14,918	14,908	Immigration	18,121	38,490	44,480
Parliamentary Elections, &c.	2,177	391	1,084	Unprovided for	83	7,083	804
Convicts	58,998	38,107	30,263	Survey Office, Establishment.	6,101	5,745	5,778
Miscellaneous	17,823	14,531	24,127	,, Miscellaneous .	23,098	19,731	13,620
Crown Agents	1,308	1,204	721	,, Special ..	..	141	119
Divisional Courts & Offices ..	67,956	61,896	64,159	Chief Insp. P. Works, Estab.	10,581	9,910	10,318
Pensions	31,798	27,538	27,244	,, Works & Buildings	23,195	37,143	46,992
Colonial Defence	145,004	194,492	173,538	,, Roads & Bridges..	30,491	33,898	71,527
Legislative Council	3,383	3,115	1,907	,, Lighthouses—Maint.	2,040	1,477	1,788
House of Assembly	10,457	9,421	3,686	,, Miscellaneous ..	739	644	1,013
Controller & Auditor-General	8,131	7,588	7,432	,, Rent	10,433	9,220	..
Registrar of Deeds . ..	2,969	2,951	3,250	,, Stores	164	1,060	756
Education	65,080	59,950	53,312	Railway Engineer	4,331	4,896	5,429
Mail Services..	21,158	19,760	18,598	Western Railways . ..	165,802	116,640	100,391
Conveyance of Mails... ..	140,709	121,456	94,642	Extension Surveys	3,220	..	..
Treasurer	4,367	4,172	5,267	Midland& N. Estn Railway..	100,943	90,928	86,758
Government Savings Bank ..	665.	475	464	E. L. & Queen's Tn. Railway	63,873	38,201	11,277
Stamp Branch	1,017	843	733	Telegraphs	31,429	32,354	50,738
Revenue Services	10,888	1,568	2,978	Secretary for Native Affairs..	4,910	3,879	3,029
Miscellaneous	3,317	1,189	..	Resident Commissioner ..	754	..	..
Excise	2,864	..	..	Northern Border Magistracy.	772	814	536
Interest and Commission ..	374,810	294,862	187,125	Collectors of Revenue, &c. ..	3,856	3,839	5,138
Loans Repaid	74,065	29,546	41,540	Pensions—Native Police .	215	*1,073	
Expenditure: Sundry Acts.	5,683	8,456	18,393	Chiefs, &c.	3,531	4,138	3,855
Inspector of Chests	..	..	417	Inspectors and Constables ..	3,035	1,561	358
Customs	22,947	21,488	21,800	Territory N. of Orange River	3,472	2,231	4,012
Sums Refunded	13,219	5,647	3,425	Miscellaneous	150	177	450
Revenue Services	360	18	85	Border Department	45,880	24,968	26,546
Attorney-General	2,612	2,007	1,686	Advances	..	34	..
Solicitor-General	1,041	920	890				
Sup., East. Dist., & Cir. Courts	23,431	22,040	23,783	Basutoland	31,155	19,772	17,876

* Including Salaries.

DEBT.

22. On the 31st December, 1879, the debt for the service of the General Government stood at £9,527,458 10s. 9d., and for Harbour Works under management of Corporate Bodies at £489,950; an increase on the figures of 1878, of respectively, £2,541,100 and £27,200. The Public Debt was created in 1859, and its growth may be traced in the Statistical Summary before referred to.

PUBLIC WORKS.

23. Statement for 1878-9 rendered by Public Works Office; this is a detailed return of expenditure on Harbours, Ordinary and New Works, Light-houses, Roads and Bridges. The total outlay on Works prosecuted during 1878-9 is stated to be £887,261, made up of £33,704 spent on works finished; £183,184 do. unfinished; and £670,372 being expenditure previous to July, 1878. Harbour Works at the Kowie were commenced in 1857, and at East London in 1855, and the disbursement thereon to July, 1879, was £364,793. Four bridges were in course of construction over the Orange River in July, 1879, and had cost up to that date £249,737.

24. *Railways.*—Up to the 31st December, 1879, a sum of £5,786,057 had been used for the construction of the then unfinished Railways; £1,530,532 being charged to Western; £2,633,682 to Midland and North-Eastern; and £1,621,843 to East London and Queen's Town Railway Systems. The estimated expenditure was respectively, £1,612,792, £3,184,299, and £1,603,500; in all, £6,400,591.

25. *Telegraphs.*—The expenditure on Construction to 31st December, 1879, was £34,067 for line from Komgha to Natal; and £613 under Act 38 of 1879, for new works. Total estimated expense, £100,000.

LOCAL REVENUES.

26. In the *Dutch* churches, of which 56 were returned, the receipts stand at £62,586; £9,539 coming from collections, and £25,014 from special contributions, &c, Of the disbursements (£60,468) £16,880 went for salaries, and £19,215 for works and buildings.

27. Fifty-six *English* churches sent in statements showing on the credit side £24,706, and debit side £25,407. Offertories contributed £13,770, and English Societies, with grants, &c., £8,099. The stipends of the Clergy amounted to £13,189; and £5,870 was sunk in works and buildings.

28. *Divisional Councils.*—There are now forty-eight of these institutions, with a revenue and expenditure, respectively, of £131,444 and £132,444. These figures show an advance on those of 1878, but are considerably below those of 1876 and 1877. On works the payments in 1879 were £91,194, besides the £1,963 contributed under the Main Roads Act of 1864. On the other side, road and other rates brought in £79,028; tolls and ferries, £22,988; loans and interest, £15,300 According to the last returns the value of fixed property in the Colony (for Divisional Councils Assessment Purposes) is £23,945,694.

29. *Municipalities*, fifty-two in number, have an income of £127,968, and expenses to the extent of £129,939. Taxes and Water Rates produce £57;364. Market Dues, £17,347; Land and House Rent, £12,395; and Loans, £22,701. The maintenance, &c., of streets and other works of this nature necessitated the payment of £74,081, and £17,867 figures as the amount of debts and interest paid. Towards

the cost of Urban Police the Municipal Councils contributed in 1879, £3,745, and the Divisional Councils similarly paid £6,804 for Rural Police Force.

CUSTOMS.

30. *Shipping.*—The total number of vessels entered inwards in 1879, was 2,238 of 2,139,182 tonnage, an increase of 408 in number and of 504,156 in tonnage on 1878; of these 1,816, measuring 1,978,842 tons, were British, and 422 of 160,340 tons, Foreign vessels. Cleared outwards in 1879 there were 2,156 of 2,050,868 tonnage—an increase on 1878 of 367 in number and 445,196 in tonnage; of these 1,786 of 1,915,169 tons were British, and 370 of 135,699 tons, Foreign ships. The vessels inwards, of which 2,115 of 2,098,845 tons had cargoes, were manned by 73,138 sailors, and those outward of which 1,522 of 1,793,314 tons had cargoes, by 70,539. In regard to nationality of shipping inwards, it appears, that 1,435 vessels belonged to the United Kingdom, 381 were Colonial, 21 Austrian, 49 American, 25 Danish, 10 Dutch, 36 French, 145 German, 25 Italian, 107 Norwegian and Swedish 3 Russian, and 1 Portuguese. The number of vessels belonging to the port of Cape Town was 41 of 3,844 tons, and to the port of Port Elizabeth 6 of 1,829 tons.

31. *Imports and Exports.*—The total value of imports in 1879 was £7,080,229, and of exports £3,805,609, showing an increase respectively of £929,206 and £349,318, in the previous year.

As regards the United Kingdom the value of the imports from had increased by £1,227,101, and of exports to by £197,583; the figures in 1879 being respectively £5,732,233 and £3,388,299. As regards British possessions the value of imports from had decreased by £250,398, and of exports to had increased by £20,922: the figures in 1879 being respectively £662,099 and £170,604. As regards Foreign countries the value of imports from had decreased by £49,585, and of exports to had increased by £130,813, the values for 1879 being respectively £683,809 and £246,706; specie (not included in the foregoing figures) was imported and exported to the extent respectively of £583,996 and £262,080. The entries for home consumption in 1879 represent a value of £6,879,024 or 97·158 per cent. of the total imports; in 1878 a value of £6,031,564 or 98·578 per cent. of the imports. The percentage increase of imports in 1879 on 1878 is 15·107, of consumption 14·051, of exports 10·618. Colonial produce was sent away in 1879 to the value of £3,664,735, an increase of £351,756 on 1878. The increase in the quantity of wool exported in 1879 compared with 1878 is 24·778, and in value 14·171. Comparative tables of Colonial imports and exports since 1870 are given in full in the Statistical Summary.

WAGES AND RENT.

32. The wages of farm overseers, servants, and ordinary labourers ruled generally higher than in 1877 and 1878: the average rates are now for European overseers £4 1s. 3d. per mensem, with board and lodging; farm servants, £1 9s. 3d.; and labourers, 2s. 11d. per diem, with food: those for male domestics have fallen, whilst those for female are steady, European males receive 38s. 8d. per month with board and lodging, and females 25s. with ditto. The average rate of wages for tradesmen is, European 9s, and coloured 6s. per diem. Payments to European workmen as a rule show an increase on 1878, the figures then being 8s. 7d. per diem, (average).

PROVISIONS AND CLOTHING.

33. Necessaries of life are cheaper than in 1877 and 1878. Flour has fallen in price since 1877, when it was sold at 5d. per pound; beef is a ¼ a lb. lower than in 1877-8; mutton shows a similar advance on 1878; butter a decline of 3½d. per lb. on last year; tea, coffee, sugar, and milk are disposed of on lower terms; rice, tobacco, and beer are steady, but wine and brandy dearer. Clothing and bedding in nearly every instance are more moderate in cost.

LAND CULTIVATED.

34. The area of holdings in 1865 was 20,464,602 morgen; in 1875 it had reached 39,947,734 morgen, distributed as follows:—29,814,182 quitrent, 6,797,811 leases (Act 19, '64), 2,873,457 other leases, 40 outspan, and 462,244 freehold. In 1865 the extent cultivated was 217,692 morgen; the corresponding figures for 1875 are 274,412 morgen. Vinestocks are returned as numbering 69,910,215 in 1875, when 4,485,665 imperial gallons of wine and 1,067,832 of brandy and spirits were manufactured. According to the 1875 census the production of the various crops was as follows:—Wheat, 1,687,935 bushels; barley, 447,991; rye, 214,260; oats, 937,363—100 lbs. weight, besides 918,494 bushels; maize and millet 1,118,007 bushels; peas, &c., 60,636; potatoes, 184,738; tobacco, 3,060,241 lbs., and dried fruits, 2,672,761 lbs.

35. *Agricultural Produce.*—Prices fell suddenly after the close of 1878, when the rates had reached the highest known for some time, and are now slightly in advance of those quoted for 1876. Wheat now sells at 9s. 8d. per bushel; barley, for 5s. 7d.; rye and oats at 6s. 6d. to 6s. 10d.; maize 9s. per bushel. Wine was £18 per leaguer in 1876, £10 17s. in 1878, and has now risen in price to £13. Brandy is disposed of at the rate of £31 2s. per leaguer; in 1877 it was as low as £17 10s.

STOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTIONS.

36. A comparison of the results of the two censuses gives the following centesimal increases and decreases in the numbers of live stock between 1865 and 1875, viz.:—Horses,—9·10, Mules and Asses, + 20·71. Cattle (draught) + 69·18, other + 55·68. Sheep (woolled) + 19·55, other—32·44. Angora Goats + 623·07, other—5·56. Pigs + 48·40. The number of domesticated Ostriches had risen from 80 to 21,751, and the production of wool had been augmented 49·72 per cent. British Basutoland was included in the 1875 census, and the inhabitants thereof possessed 35,257 horses, 217,417 cattle, 289,807 sheep and 160,754 goats. Enumerations of live stock in Transkeian Districts are incomplete, but 26,940 horses, 218,931 cattle, 434,297 sheep, and 187,775 goats have been returned as belonging to people in certain portions thereof.

37. Prices of live stock have as a rule been gradually rising for some time past: animal productions except skins, are, however, cheaper than of late. Horses are now disposed of at from £22 to £23 per head, mules £21, asses £6 12s., oxen and cows from £8 12s. to £9 2s., slaughter sheep sell now at 19s. each, woolled sheep 17s 5d., and goats at 16s.

MANUFACTORIES, &c.

38. When the 1875 census was taken particulars were collected as to the

number of agricultural implements and industries. It will be sufficient to mention, however, that the value of such implements and machinery, imported since the beginning of 1875 is, according to the customs return, no less than £194,026. Regarding manufactories in the towns and villages the information is as yet defective. Boot works were 138 in number in 1879, Brick do. 136, Confectionery 44, Cooperage 28, Guns 16, Foundries 13, Iron and Tin works 105, Printing 47, Saddlery and Harness 97, Wagons and Carts 247, Fish-curing 30, Gas 4, Glass 1, Boat building 9.

39. Mines. The most noted are—Manganese (Paarl division): exports in 1879 amounted to 181 tons. Copper Ore (Namaqualand division): percentage from 32 to 35, exports in 1879, 14,178 tons, value £283,885. Guano cave in Robertson division. Coal, Wodehouse division: 700 tons, valued at £1,050, raised in 1879, Albert division: produce of two mines was 700,000 lbs, at 2s. per 100 lbs.

40. Fisheries. 210 boats and upwards of 1,610 persons are engaged in connection with the sea fisheries on the coast of the colony. Quantity and value of dried fish exported in 1879 was respectively 3,956,881 lbs. (weight) and £25,997. value.

41. Salt Pans (large) in the following divisions: Malmesbury, Piquetberg, Fraserburg, Riversdale, Uitenhage and Cradock. The export of colonial salt amounted in 1879 to over 600,000 lbs.

LAND GRANTED AND SOLD.

42. A sketch of the land laws will be found on pages 6 to 8, of the Return I. Heads of Revenue. The extent of *acres* granted during 1879 is 418,777, and sold 1,455,668. The area of the colony (with East Griqualand) approximating 124,162,000 acres, 71,834,232 of which have been disposed of, there are 52;327,768 acres still ungranted. In 1879 there were 1,807 transactions, the number settled by purchase being 395, and the purchase amount £49,418, and by grant 1,412, the annual quit-rent being £10,774. The majority of grants were under 50 morgen, the number actually being 1,362, representing 3,097 morgen of land, 27 were between 50 and 250 morgen, and 418 exceeded 250 morgen.

BANKS.

43. The amount of coin in circulation appears to be about £5,000,000: this is estimated from the balance of imports over exports and the sum in banks' coffers in December, 1879. The number of banking institutions in operation at the close of 1879 was 11, the nominal capital of which totalled to £6,105,028, and paid up £2,676,349. Shares numbered 131,724; the reserve fund stood at £884,889, and the note circulation at £721,409, the highest sum reached since 1874. *Assets* and *liabilities*. The total transactions for the half year ended 31st December, 1879, show an increase of £2,543,809 on the corresponding period of 1878. Comparing the half yearly statements for the last half of each year since and including 1875, it will be seen that the amount of coin in the coffers was highest in 1879 (£1,314,491), drafts on Treasury highest in 1878 (£31,843), notes and cheques in 1879 (an increase on 1878 of £109,136), balances in other Banks in 1879 (£3,868,160, being £1,564,881 in excess of 1878), value of buildings in 1875, bills and notes under discount in 1879 (£5,875,622, *i.e.*, £486,761 more than in 1875, the next highest),

bills and notes and accounts overdrawn in 1876, and other debts in 1879. As regards Liabilities,—Capital stood at the maximum in 1876; reserve fund has steadily risen from £180,160 in 1875 to £244,889 in 1879, notes circulated show an increase of £36,263 on 1878, post bills were largest in amount in 1876, fixed deposits have grown from £2,379,743 in 1875 to £3,672,155 in 1879, floating deposits are £499,283 larger than in 1875, and show a small increase on 1878, balances in other banks were highest in 1879, so was interest; bills payable, and profit and loss in 1876.

44. Government Savings Bank. On the 31st December, 1878, 979 depositors had £16,243 to their credit, and in December, 1879, there were 1,083 depositors with £18,426 of capital and £516 of interest due; the corresponding figures for 1877 show 808 depositors, with £13,374 of capital and £307 of interest due. During 1879, 302 accounts were opened and £10,256 paid in, and 198 closed and £8,073 withdrawn; the amount of interest paid was £75.

45. In the Cape of Good Hope Savings Bank the receipts from depositors amounted in 1879 to £84,285, and the re-payments to £74,965; interest was allotted to the extent of £9,383. The sum to the credit of depositors was £218,148, an increase of £10,662 on 1878. Accounts to the number of 1,108 were opened, and 787 were closed; the total number open in December, 1879 was 4,843. At Graham's Town and King William's Town, are also Savings Banks. In the firs named 1,208 depositors had £7,039 to their credit, and in the second to 1,033 individuals £19,688 was due.

POPULATION.

46. The last census was taken in March, 1875 and the population of the Colony was returned as follows:—European or White 236,783, Malay 10,817, Hottentot 98,561, Fingo 73,506, Kafir and Betshuana 214,133, mixed and other 87,184, or 720,984 in all, of which 369,628 are males, and 351,356 females.

By adding to that of the Colony as it existed in 1865, the population of British Kaffraria (since annexed) the true increase in the decade is obtained; it is as follows:—

Numbers, 138,402.	European or white 47,008.	Coloured 91,394.
Per cent., 23·756.	European or white 24·770.	Coloured 23·267.

To every 100 males of the total population there were 95·06 females. According to race, there were to 100 males, amongst Europeans, 91·09 females, amongst Coloured, 97·06 females. In 1875 there were to the square mile 3·60 persons, of whom 1·18 were white and 2·42 coloured. The number of inhabited dwellings was 55,212, exclusive of 76,022 inhabited huts and tents, and the number of persons to an inhabited dwelling is 5·49. Under 15 years of age there were 314,516 persons, between 15 and 55, 352,399, from 55 and upwards 43,000, and 11,069 were of unspecified age. In regard to education 62·35 per cent. whites and 6·17 coloured could read and write, and 3·93 per cent. white, and 4·08 coloured, read only. Conjugal Condition.—1. Regular Marriages. There were among European or whites 36,044 husbands and 34,777 wives, with 2,124 widowers and 4,817 widows. Bachelors (20 years and upwards,) numbered 20,446, and spinsters (15 and upwards) 21,367. 2. Irregular Marriages. To 55,768 wives there were 50,375 husbands with 1,299 widowers and 8,179 widows.

About 3,800 marriages are contracted annually, the number in 1877 being 3,778, in 1878 3,721, and in 1879 approximately 3,900.

Religions.—The number of persons belonging to the principal creeds is:—

	European or White.	Coloured.
Protestants	225,126	139,963
Catholics	8,666	1,001
Jews	538	...
Mohammedans	18	11,196
Others	15	8

2,237 European or white were of no religion, as were 331,810 coloured, and 406 refused to state their religious beliefs. Birth-places: Of the European or white population, 204,529 were born in British possessions in Africa, and 1334 in other African States. 22,032 persons had come from Great Britain, and 749 from other British possessions, 131 were born at sea. Of 843 the birth-places were unknown or unstated. In France, 239 were born; in Germany, 4,685; in Holland, 879; in Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, 421; in U.S. of America, 264. From British possessions in Africa (outside the Colony), 1,066 persons had come. Infirmities: As regards race, the largest proportion of the infirm occurs among Malays; of blind, among Fingoes; of idiotic, males among Malays, females among Fingoes; of lunatics, males among mixed and other, females among Hottentots. The number of European or white infirm under 15 years of age, is greater in proportion to the population than it is in the coloured races; and at higher ages the proportion is reversed only in blind and idiotic. The total number of infirm in 1875 was 2,627, exclusive of 52 lepers. Occupations: The professional class comprise 7,916 persons, or 1·098 per cent. of the total population; domestic, 83,266, or 11·549 per cent.; commercial, 13,317, or 1·847; agricultural, 209,136, or 29·007; industrial, 24,279, or 3·367; indefinite and non-productive, 383,070, or 53·132 per cent.

47. Basutoland. In 1875, there were only 469 European or white persons among the 128,176 inhabitants of the territory. Transkei. The total population of four of the districts is 175,073.

GAOLS.

48. During the year 1879 the names of 20,169 persons (of whom 2,563 were females), were registered in the Prison Records, 8,503 of these were Christians, 11,414 Pagans, and 252 Mohammedans. In 1878, when the numbers were exceptionally high owing to the frontier disturbances, 23,280 males, and 2,890 females were in custody; in 1877, 16,580 males and 2,539 females; and in 1876, 13,534 males and 2,124 females. Dividing the prisoners (1879) into two classes, white and coloured, it appears that there were 61 white and 501 black under, and 2,685 whites and 16,922 blacks over, 18 years of age; of the whites, all but 403 could read, of the coloured, only 2,916 were able to do so. 2,614 of the prisoners had been committed before: 1,455 once, 643 twice, and 516 three times or more. Cases of sickness numbered 1,243; of which 65 resulted fatally. There were 109 escapes from prison. In Basutoland gaols 127 coloured persons were kept in confinement at one time or another in 1879, four of these were females, and only nine were below 18 years of age. In guarding and attending on the prisoners in the Colony, 149 persons are employed, besides these, the constabulary consists of 805 officers and men. Provisions are lower in price than in 1878. The Colonial Expenditure in 1878-9 on "Police and Gaols" amounted to £68,739 for salaries and allowances, £39,375 for contingent expenses, and £5,727 for transport.

49. The Inquest Act came into operation in July, 1874. [illegible] inquests and investigations have been held on 1,398 [illegible] cluding 1 unknown). The number of inquests increases annual[ly] gations (by Field-cornets), was highest in 1877. In the period found that disease carried off 507 persons, 100 met their death were run over, 51 were burnt, 239 were drowned, 47 were acci[dentally] poisoned (but not by violence), and 54 perished by other accidents; th[ere] cases of violence, 84 males and 17 females committed suicide, 211 per[sons] through exposure, and the miscellaneous causes of death were 67 in number.

CRIMES.

50. In the Magistrates' Courts in the Colony 834 preliminary examinations were held in 1879, and 20,426 prosecutions conducted. Charges were preferred against 25,768 persons, 4,788 male (18·58 per cent. of the whole number), and 240 female whites (0·93 per cent.), 17,639 male (68·45 per cent.) and 3,101 female blacks (12·04). The percentage of female whites is the lowest recorded since 1876; that of male whites and female blacks the smallest, and that of male blacks the largest except in 1878. The cases were disposed of as follows:—Withdrawals, &c., 665 (2·58 per cent.), convictions 19,786 (76·79 per cent.), acquittals 1,906 (7·40 per cent.), dismissals and discharges 2,297 (8·91 per cent.), otherwise 458 (1·78 per cent.), transmissions to Supreme and Circuit Courts 656 (2·54 per cent.). These 25,768 crimes were committed by 21,859 separate individuals. See § 56. Offences are divided into seven classes as under :—

	Accusations (number).	Convictions.	Transmissions to higher Courts.
Offences against the person,	4,409	3,165	164
Ditto ditto, and property, ...	335	118	133
Ditto property, ...	5,224	3,649	333
Ditto good order, ...	8,971	7,644	1
Ditto carrying out laws (Police discipline, &c.,) ...	966	779	10
Ditto against the Currency and Revenue, ...	155	116	5
Ditto Public welfare, ...	5,708	4,315	10

Crime was more prevalent in 1878, when 30,182 accusations were recorded, among which were 1,179 indictments for sedition, than in 1879, which only figures at 803 cases in excess of 1877. Considering the facts stated as to serious crime a gradual diminution since* 1876 in the commission thereof is evident; thus offences against the person stood at 5,101 in 1877, 4,936 in 1878, and 4,409 in 1879; again offences against the person and property are shewn to have been 565 in 1877, 494 in 1878, and 335 in 1879. Thefts and other similar contraventions of law are slightly more numerous in 1879 than 1877, but considerably less so than in 1878. "Good order" was more disturbed in 1879 than in 1878, yet less than in 1877. Offences against carrying out law were a little above the average in last year, those against revenue and currency have fallen off regularly since 1877, and those against public welfare (Miscellaneous,) show increases on 1877 and on 1878, even if, in the latter instance, the sedition cases are left out of consideration. In Basutoland, 906 persons were accused during 1879, of these all but 26 were natives, convictions are stated to have been 785,

* The present more exact system of classification was adopted in 1877.

t Court, acquittals 67, and dismissals &c., 25. In 1878 of the l were well founded, and in 1877 of 576, 522. Comparing urns, decreases in the number of crimes are noticeable under and increases under classes 2 and 7.

CIVIL CASES.

amount of Civil business was transacted in the Magistrates' Courts n the two preceding years. In the statement for 1879, the following are given :—Liquid cases, recorded 2,739, amount £55,561, withdrawn £15,108, decided 1,904, awarded £37,846. Illiquid, recorded 6,843, 14,633, withdrawn 2,281, £10,891, decided 4,470, £24,053. Total amount awarded, 1879, £61,899; 1878, 56,379; 1877, £71,808. Basutoland 1879 returns show a decrease on those for 1878 and '77. In many cases horses and cattle are claimed and awarded.

52. Occupations of the accused have been classified according to the census method, with the following results for last year :—

	Male Whites.	Female Whites.	Male Blacks.	Female Blacks.
Professional, ...	329	3	142	0
Domestic, ...	117	52	390	632
Commercial, ...	1,116	4	766	20
Agricultural, ...	616	6	3,157	105
Industrial, ...	796	46	673	515
Indefinite and non-productive (including "Labourers and Servants.")	1,814	129	12,511	1,829

CRIMINAL AND CIVIL CASES.

53. Before the higher courts the criminal cases disposed of numbered 542,—699 persons being indicted, 531 of whom were convicted, 137 acquitted, and 31 dismissed or discharged; the corresponding figures for 1878 (when a large number of sedition cases were heard) are respectively 1,275 indictments, 1,018, 158 and 23 (*a* 76 cases otherwise disposed of), and for 1877 676, 458, 189, and 1 (*b* 28 cases otherwise treated.) From the foregoing figures the following percentages are derived,

withdrawals, &c., ...	...0·00	1879,	5·41	1878,	2·66	1877.
Convictions,	76·00	,,	79·85	,,	67·75	,,
Acquittals,	19·6	,,	12·31	,,	27·96	,,
Dismissals,	4·4	,,	1·88	,,	0·15	,,
Other, ...	0·0	,,	0·55	,,	1·48	,,

On comparing the 1878 and 1879 returns a decrease will be found under every class of crime; among offences against the person, and the person and property the following changes may be noticed.—Classes 1 and 2 (accusations), 141 and 130 in 1879, against 146 and 214 in 1878.

Civil cases. Liquid cases to the number of 308 came before the Superior Courts in 1879, the amount awarded being £70,351: in 1878, 340 cases were recorded which represented the award of £93,982. Illiquid cases numbered 263 against 256 in 1878.

a 64 withdrawn. *b* 6 withdrawn.

l number of estates
preceding years the figures are

IAL JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

s of the Peace have now been established at 14
four were proclaimed and one was abolished in 1879. In 1879, 532 cases
re heard, 533 persons (75 male and 1 female whites, 380 male and 77 female blacks) accused; 10 cases were withdrawn or stood over, and 373 convictions, 17 acquittals and 116 dismissals or discharges were recorded, 5 cases were otherwise disposed of and 12 were referred to Resident Magistrates. Fewer persons were apprehended last year than in 1878 or 1877 (the figures are 533, 642 and 715), convictions decreased from 72·7 per cent. in 1877 to 67 per cent. in 1878, but increased to 70 per cent. in 1879; acquittals and discharges have, however, an upward tendency thus,—124 in 1877, 129 in 1878, 133 in last year.

SEPARATE PERSONS.—RESIDENT MAGISTRATES' COURTS.

56. As regards separate individuals accused, the following information may be given,—accused once 19,350 (88·52 per cent.), twice 1,676 (7·66 per cent.), thrice 509 (2·33 per cent.), four times 190 (0·87 per cent.), five times 62 (0·29 per cent.), and six times and upwards 72 (0·33 per cent.); convicted once 14,642 (88·01 per cent.), twice 1,377 (8·28 per cent.), thrice 370 (2·22 per cent.), four times 140 (0·84 per cent.), five times 49 (0·30 per cent.), and six times and upwards 59 (0·35 per cent. On comparing the per centages for 1879–8 and 1877 it will be seen that there has been a gradual increase under single, and decrease under reiterated accusations and convictions.

EDUCATION.

57. On education, the State Expenditure during 1878-9 is returned as having been £70,082—Establishments costing £2,414; exclusive of ditto, £58,242; extra Colonial, £4,424; pupil teachers' fund, £420; Basutoland establishments, £603; exclusive of ditto, £3,980. The total payments are, £5,649 in excess of those in 1877-8, and £11,226 more than in 1876-7. Public schools are 229 in number, mission ditto, 351; boarding, 37; industrial, training, and day schools (Native), 168, Basutoland ditto, 56, normal schools, 2, in all 843 (an increase of 67 on 1877-8, and of 107 on 1876-7), having 66,827 children on the books, and 32,055 in daily attendance. There are now 4,618 more boys and girls at school than in 1877-8, and 5,226 more than in 1876-7, and 1,555 more in daily attendance than in 1876-7. The 607 schools inspected in 1878-9 had 39,420 names on the rolls, and 27,668 children were present on the occasion of the inspector's visit. Deputy-Inspectors were first appointed in 1872, and since that date, 3,222 schools have been seen, in which 154,801 boys and girls were present out of 224,951 on the books. A steady progress is noticeable in the number of children classed under the highest educational standard. The present educational system is subject to the provisions of Act No. 13 of 1865, and since that year the state expenditure has amounted to £483,188, and the local outlay to £539,614; schools have grown in number from 392 to 848, and scholars on the list from 32,875 to 67,122. Fees in public schools average—class I, 10s. 8d. per month; class II., 7s. 4d.; class III., 4s.; in mission ditto, 1s. 7d.

58. Under Act No. 10 ... Good Hope, which has since been ... 8, 1877. Undergraduates: Candidates ... of these 208 passed, and 85 passed with hono... Graduates: can... ing themselves for examination were 91 in number; 58 of these pa... 4 as LL.B., and 48 as B.A. To *ad eundem* degrees, 94 gentlemen have ... mitted; 28 certificates of proficiency in law, and 22 of proficiency in land... ing have been granted. At the examinations in elementary subjects, 947 persons were present, and 237 passed in the first class, and 398 in the second.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

59. To the congregations of the different religious denominations, there belong 326,899 persons; 197,686 being classed as whites, and 129,213 as coloured; an increase of 37,826 on 1878, and of 49,078 on 1877. Comparing the returns for 1878 and 1879, it will be noticed that the number of ministers has increased from 317 to 355; the receipts from Government have fallen off £519, while the incomings from the congregation, &c., have risen from £46,193 to £57,610, and contributions, exclusive of ministers' support, from £47,428 to £74,586; main stations are more numerous by 99; out-stations less so by 87. The average attendance is now 108,719 persons, in buildings capable of holding 188,192; communicants now number 95,773, or 2,660 more than in 1878. Every week 2,504 services are held. At * 807 evening and Sunday-schools, 34,813 children attend. Births, marriages, and deaths numbered in 1879, respectively, 14,469, 2,718, and 3,483. Of the total number of adherents, the Dutch Church has 47·86 p.c.; the English, 13·20; Wesleyans, 13·08; Congregationalists and London Missionary Society, 9·52; Rhenish Mission, 3·30; Moravians, 2·77; Roman Catholics, 2·69; Presbyterians, 2.56; Berlin Mission, 1·26; Dutch Dissenters, 1·26; Evangelical Lutherans, ·94; German Baptist, ·70; English ditto, ·47; Free Evangelical, ·24; French Reformed, ·15. In Basutoland, three religious bodies are at work. The number of adherents is 14,040 (161 whites); contributions amount to £1,745; communicants are 4,680 in number, and weekly services 548. Births, marriages, and deaths in 1879 were as follows: 352, 94, and 56.

HOSPITALS.

60. At the beginning of 1879, there were 671 patients in the several Colonial *Hospitals*, and during the year 3,117 new cases were admitted. To attend upon these 3,788 persons, 52 nurses, and 27 other servants were employed. Of patients discharged, 2,147 were cured, 2,325 relieved, 192 not improved, and 132 left the institutions. The number of deaths was 334 in 1879; in 1878 it was 413 in 4,176 cases; and in 1877, 285 in 3,670 cases. Area: The mean average length of the wards is 31ft. 6ins.; breadth, 17ft., height 14ft. 8½ins.; on an average there are 9 to 10 beds to a ward; the maximum of patients in a ward was 8; amount of cubic space for each patient was 1,595 per ward; and the area of ventilating openings (in square feet) is 73. Diseases: In the hospitals, infirmaries, and asylums, 4,114 cases were treated in 1879, of these 355 resulted fatally. These figures show a decrease

* Congregationalists have 6, not 106 evening schools, as wrongly stated in return. Total is, therefore, 108, not 208 schools.

f 303 cases
arranged as

				Infirmary and Asylums.*	
				Cases.	Deaths.
			75	105	21
			129	723	57
			4	33	15
...	...	...	145	6	12	2
Injuries ...	...	...	514	13	5	1
Malingering and malformation (2)	...	...	15	0	...	...
Moribund ...	...	...	25	25	...	...
Destitute and other	...		5	0	†30	7

The death rate in the hospitals is, therefore, 7·98 p.c., or, excluding the moribunds, 7·21 p.c., in the infirmaries and asylums 10·77 p.c. Average rate of mortality in 1879 was 8·63 ; 1878, 9·647 ; and 1877, 8·370 p.c.

61. The two *Lunatic Asylums* at the beginning of 1879 had 255 inmates, and during the year 56 persons were admitted (20 being females). Of the 311 patients, upon whom 48 people attended, 15 were cured, 3 relieved, and 2 left unimproved; the deaths numbered 21. At Robben Island there are 63 rooms, the gross cubic space thereof being 176,315ft., and the average amount of cubic space available for each patient, 1,363ft. For the Graham's Town Asylum the corresponding figures are respectively, 19, 114,433, and 2,384. On referring to the Appropriation Accounts, 1878-9, it will be observed that the expenditure on the Somerset Hospital was £7,339 ; Old ditto, £6,271; Robben Island, £16,660 ; King William's Town, £5,594 ; Graham's Town Asylum, £5,130 ; other hospitals, £10,707. The revenue of the four aided institutions for 1879 was £9,913, £5,898 being receipts from Government, and the expenditure, £9,029.

62. Touching *Charitable Institutions* generally, it may be mentioned that the inmates in January, 1879, numbered 1,188 ; 4,715 were admitted during the year ; 4,204 persons were discharged, and 471 died. District Surgeons treated 1,625 persons in 1879, 112 of whom died. Cases in 1878 numbered 1,913 ; in 1877, 820 ; in the former year, 88 deaths happened ; in the latter, 54.

63. Belonging to 58 Friendly Societies there were at the end of 1879, 6,575 members. According to the returns submitted by the different magistrates, 290 indoor, and 407 out-door, paupers obtained Government assistance in 1879.

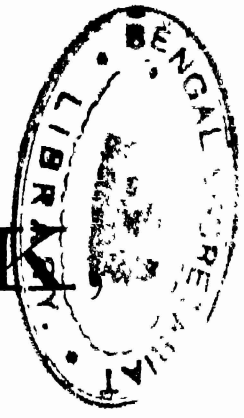
Colonial Secretary's Office, Cape Town,
Cape of Good Hope, May, 1880.

* *I.e.*, Old Somerset Hospital, Robben Island, and Graham's Town Asylums, where *chronic sick*, &c., are cared for.

† Including 30 chronic sick (P. E. Hosp.), among whom were 7 deaths.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

BLUE-BOOK,



1880.

APPENDIX.

CONTENTS.

1.—CIVIL COMMISSIONERS' GENERAL REPORTS ON DIVISIONS UNDER THEIR CHARGE.
2.— „ „ REPORTS ON RATES OF WAGES, STATE OF LABOUR MARKET, &c.
3.— „ „ OBSERVATIONS ON IMPROVEMENTS AND SQUATTING.

DIVISIONS REPORTED UPON:

Simon's Town, Malmesbury, Clanwilliam, Piquetberg, Namaqualand, Calvinia, Tulbagh, Fraserburg, Victoria West, Carnarvon, Prince Albert, Willowmore, Robertson, Swellendam, Riversdale, Ladismith, Uniondale, Oudtshoorn, Knysna, Humansdorp, Uitenhage, Jansenville, Alexandria, Bathurst, Victoria East, Stockenstrom, Somerset East, Middelburg, Graaff-Reinet, Hope Town, Colesberg, Hanover, Herschel, Barkly, Cathcart, Tarka, King William's Town, Komgha, East London, Kimberley, Du Toit's Pan, Barkly (Klipdrift), Herbert, and Hay.

SIMON'S TOWN.

The new road across the beaches, as was expected, has proved of immense advantage to the trade, and convenience of the inhabitants of this division.

During the past year, the fisheries, which supply fresh and salted fish, have been actively and profitably employed, but exports to the Mauritius have not improved. Few ships have visited the Bay, and trade was consequently dull. The unfortunate wreck of the "Star of Africa" at Oliphants Bosch Point, on the 29th August last, when the lives of the master, his wife, and twelve others were lost, was the only disaster on the coast.

Eleven pieces of land in this division, which were declared derelict, have been resumed by the Government.

The drought has been severely felt by farmers and market gardeners, but no heavy losses in stock and cattle have been sustained. Ostrich farming still maintains its interest, and is on the increase.

The general health of the inhabitants has been unexceptionally good, no epidemics occurring.

Strong south-east winds prevailed from the 13th October to the 9th December with few intermissions of short duration.

Crime, as compared with last year, has much decreased.

MALMESBURY.

The state of this division has not materially altered during the past year.

The absence of rain during the months of April, May, and June (most unusual as regards this division) was, at the time, the cause of considerable anxiety among agriculturists: rains however commenced to fall about the middle of July, when ploughing was commenced in earnest and a large extent of land was brought under cultivation.

Refreshing showers continuing to fall at intervals during July, August, and part of September, up to the middle of October the crops looked most promising; the rains however suddenly ceased about the middle of September, drought set in, and the consequence has been that the crops of wheat, rye, barley, and oats, have proved light, even in the most favoured localities, while in some parts of the division they have been a complete or a partial failure. The result throughout the division generally of the yield of grain may be said to be below the average. In consequence of the drought above referred to, stock has suffered considerably, chiefly horned cattle, which are in low condition, and in some parts of the division a number of such cattle have died, and as the drought still continues it is more than probable that further losses may occur.

The general health of the inhabitants has been good during the past year.

CLANWILLIAM.

The extraordinary dry winter has caused a failure in the crops. In some parts of this division there has been no harvest at all, and many of the farmers will have to buy their bread and forage.

There has been comparatively little sickness during the past year, only a

few isolated cases of "diphtheria" here and there, and a fever of a typhoid character in some parts of the Zandveldt towards Lambert's Bay.

The Pakhuis Road and its extension as far as the Doorn River, the boundary between Calvinia and this division is now finished; there is already a considerable traffic on this line, particularly in the transport of grain from Lambert's Bay to Calvinia.

The Divisional Council is fully alive to the necessity of good roads, and now intend opening up that part of the division beyond the Cedar mountains. A tender of £600 has been accepted for the making of part of this road, and a sum of £200 has been subscribed by the farmers, resident in that part, and some others.

The telegraph line to this place has been completed, and is now in full working order, thereby affording a great convenience to the public.

PIQUETBERG.

The past year has been very unfavourable for agricultural pursuits in this division, on account of the very small rain-fall.

The season altogether has been very dry. In many parts several farmers have not ploughed, and there will be a consequent falling off in all cereal crops. Should another dry, unfavourable season supervene, the consequences will be serious, as many have even now to provide food for cattle, &c.

The opening up, and improving of the road, from Piquetberg Road Station *viâ* Porterville to the upper districts, has been a great boon to the eastern portion of this division. While affording more direct communication with Clanwilliam, Calvinia, &c., it has now become the postal route.

A hard road is urgently needed through the Zandveldt or western portion of this division from the village of Piquetberg, in order to afford the people generally an easy access to the sea for summer recreation and change.

There is very often great suffering and sickness during the excessive heat of the summer months, more especially at the present very dry season. White-sore-throat, fever, and other sicknesses have prevailed, carrying off many in the division. A hard road giving easy access to the sea being much desired, Government has been applied to for assistance, the resources of the Divisional Council not being sufficient for the purpose.

The water supply of this village, like many others, is very deficient and faulty, and, it is matter of regret that there is no municipality, which would be in a position to see to the construction of proper dams and reservoirs.

The supply of pure water being so very essential to the general health of the people, it is suggested that the Hydraulic Engineer and Staff should visit this and all other like villages and places, with a view to the proper construction of dams, reservoirs and fountains. By substituting brick and cement dams, reservoirs, and fountains, for the present dams which in many cases are little better than cess-pools, on account of the excessive heat, drought, and want of proper supply, the resources of the country would be properly opened out.

This want of the supply of good pure water has much to do with our periodical visitations of diphtheria, typhoid fever, and other diseases of a like malarial nature.

The periodical court that was to have been established at Roode Bay Mouth

of the Great Berg River, has for the present, apparently fallen through, on account of the rather sudden death of Mr. Jan N. Smit, M.D.C., who had undertaken to erect at his own expense, the necessary court and other accommodation.

NAMAQUALAND.

The past year so far as this division is concerned does not offer any matters of especial interest to record. Peace within our borders has been unbroken, and save the oft recurring dissensions between Damaras, Namaquas, and others, (some three hundred miles from our northern boundary), which so largely fill up the history of these, and other aboriginal races, there has been nothing to disturb the tranquillity of the district.

Our harvest, owing to the very limited rainfall (7¼ inches), has been a bad one. Fortunately our farming population depend chiefly upon their flocks and herds, and but little upon agriculture, and these generally do not appear to have suffered from either disease or drought. No doubt at the different missionary institutions, where the people depend more largely upon their grain crops, there may be some distress before another harvest, but as the copper mines, the chief source of wealth in this division, continue to yield largely, and the demand for native labour is steady and increasing, and the labourer well paid, it will be his own fault if any person who can work, suffers from want.

The question whether the native population congregated together in such centres, though no doubt highly advantageous for their instruction, is the one best fitted for their sustenance and material progress in a district like this, where good harvests are the exception, rather than the rule, is very much to be doubted.

The crime in this division has not been very serious nor in excess of previous years, and much of this might be lessened, at least, as far as the juvenile population is concerned, if the resident magistrate could summarily inflict upon juvenile offenders, the same punishment, which parents, and village schoolmasters seem to have the right to make use of—a good wholesome whipping with rod or cane. As the case now stands, before a magistrate can administer a dozen cuts with a rattan, he must first obtain the sanction of the judges of the Supreme Court, before which consent can be received, a period of three weeks must elapse, during which time a boy so sentenced, has every chance of improving his education in vice, by herding for such time with the inmates of the gaol. The attention of the Government is called to the fact, that this same question, the punishment of juvenile offenders, has been recently much discussed in England, and the general consensus of opinion of those most qualified by experience to form a sound one, is in favour not only of extending the area over which this punishment should be inflicted for juvenile offences, but also for extending the summary jurisdiction of the magistrate, so far as such cases are concerned. An alternative of fining the parents for the delinquencies of the children, (as was the case in Kreli's country), would no doubt be often advantageous, in teaching parents their duty to their children, the difficulty however of enforcing such punishment in a district like this, would be the determination of the parentage of the children, as the proportion of married women is lamentably small.

Ten deaths, upon which inquests were held, occurred during the past year in this division,—three the results of exposure, three from natural causes, two

from accident, and two from poisoning. With regard to these two latter, occasioned by poisoning by strychnine, attention is directed to the great facilities that exist in out of the way places, for all classes procuring this most deadly and dangerous drug. In these instance the strychnine was procured in one case to poison wild animals destroying the flocks, in the other to get rid of a thieving dog. If this poison, and arsenic, the two poisons most generally in use but so especially dangerous amongst a careless, ignorant people, from their great, similarity to many articles of common use, were discoloured with powdered charcoal, or vermillion, which would in no way lessen their destructive properties, they would at all events be less liable to be made the causes of fatal mistakes, and at all events if used unintentionally, or maliciously against ourselves we should have the security of our eyesight.

Mr. Samuels, the Inspector of Schools has visited this district. His repor to the Superintendent-General of Education, will fully inform the Government upon this head. A new Episcopal Church has been built in O'okiep during the past year, and was consecrated by the Bishop of Cape Town in November last. The Wesleyans are collecting funds to build a new chapel in the same place.

There is considerable difficulty in keeping up the hut-tax, owing to the very migratory habits of many of the people: many huts which were registered in 1878 have long since been removed; no doubt other huts have sprung up, but these are not on the register. The cost of a new registration and valuation in an extensive but sparsely peopled district like this absorbs a large amount of the revenue.

There has been but little sickness in this division during the past year, save at O'okiep, where owing to the large native population, notwithstanding all the sanitary regulations enforced by the Copper Company, and the residence of an able medical man in their midst, there was during the summer a good deal of low fever, but notwithstanding the higher temperature, the mortality in proportion to population, seems to have been less than that of the chief city in the Colony.

CALVINIA.

This district has very much improved during the last year.
A line of telegraph has been opened.

The farmers have availed themselves extensively of the advantages afforded by the Legislature for irrigation works, and upwards of £10,000 have already been applied for under the Irrigation Act.

Steam engines for hydraulic purposes, have also been introduced successfully. The district has however, suffered severely from a protracted drought, and the result is, that necessaries, &c., owing to expensive transport, are at almost famine prices. The opening of the Boterkloof Road has however facilitated the means of bringing corn and other produce into this district from Cape Town, and it is no longer entirely dependent upon the transport through the Karoo.

The town of Calvinia itself has been very much improved. There is a good library, substantial buildings have sprung up, and it can now boast of nine stores, and three groves, enclosed, and plentifully planted with trees.

The public health has also been good.

There is great want of a periodical court at Brandvley, a village distant about 120 miles from Calvinia. In some cases, farmers and others have to travel a distance of about 300 miles to the seat of magistracy at Calvinia, to seek justice.

Extensive sales of Crown Lands in the Achterveld and Grasveld have taken place during the year, under the Act No. 14, 1878, and large amounts were realized.

Crime has increased owing to the drought.

TULBAGH.

During the greater portion of the current year this division has suffered from drought, although perhaps not to such an extent as some of the neighbouring districts. Copious showers fell during the winter months, enabling the farmers to sow extensively, and the crops were looking promising. Towards the latter months of the year, however, the rains ceased, and hot dry winds prevailed parching up the crops: the grain reaped will in consequence be far below the average, especially oats, which in ordinary years fetch from £1 to £1 5s. per 100 sheaves, whereas the crops of the present year are selling at £2 to £2 10s. per 100 bundles. The prices of barley and wheat have also risen in proportion.

Some of the farmers have sustained heavy losses in stock, and provisions are scarce and dear.

By the injudicious purchases of cattle, lung-sickness has recently reappeared on one or two farms.

The ostrich industry, for which some parts of this district appear to be well adapted, is steadily increasing, and large numbers of young birds have been reared.

A number of horses have been supplied from this district for the Basuto war. Horse breeding has been fairly successful.

Several new reaping machines, one steam thrashing machine, and a few steam pumps for irrigation purposes, have been introduced, in addition to these previously in use.

There is a steady demand for good labourers, and good domestic servants are very scarce, and are getting high wages.

The number of criminal and civil cases tried in the magistrate's court was comparatively few, and crime is decidedly on the decrease.

The cause of education continues to be cared for and appreciated by the public, and excepting that the attendance fell off during the prevalence of measles, education has made fair progress during the year.

Ice is now manufactured in large quantities at Waverley Mills, owned by William Dickson, Esq., and is chiefly supplied to towns along the railroad, to Beaufort West, and Cape Town.

Manganese has been discovered on the farm De Bosch, but whether it can be obtained in paying quantities remains yet to be seen.

The main and divisional roads under the supervision of the Divisional Council are now in a fair state of repair, and several pieces of new roads have been made. The rate assessed for maintenance is 1½d. in the pound sterling.

Ceres is still a thriving business place. There is a decided improvement in the appearance of the town. Several new buildings have been erected, and

old ones renovated. The new Dutch Church erected at a cost of £9,000, is a well built edifice, and is approaching completion. The pulpit is a splendid specimen of art.

The climate of Ceres during the summer months is delightful, and its high and open situation makes it a very healthy place of residence, and it is much resorted to by invalids and visitors from Cape Town, and elsewhere. A first class hotel is much needed in this town, and it is to be hoped that one will soon be established.

The municipality have taken steps to improve the water supply of the town under the Irrigation Act at an estimated cost of £2,500, the necessary survey has been made, and the Resident Engineer, Mr. H. Mattby, proposes carrying the water after passing over the town mill on the east side (Ward No. 1) across the Dwars River, to the west side (Ward No. 2) by means of an embankment, and teak aqueduct, to the east bank, and under the river by means of an iron siphon or pipe to west bank, the water supply will thus be more than doubled.

The library is steadily progressing and is stocked with useful books. The munificent bequest of the late William Porter, Esq., C.M.G. and the Government grant passed this year will enable the committee of management to procure many more valuable works.

The general health of the people has been good. Measles however prevailed amongst children. The death rate has been small.

FRASERBURG.

This district has suffered severely from drought, and the loss in live stock has been very great. The total rainfall in the village of Fraserburg was 7.55 inches. The most fell in February, April, and October, and the least in January, June, and July. But in the outlying parts, only a few miles off, there was little or no rain during the whole year; and in portions of the northern and north-western regions of the extensive district no rain whatever has fallen for three years.

Nothing is done in the way of waterworks, nor have the inhabitants shewn any desire to avail themselves of the facilities offered by Government to construct reservoirs for irrigation purposes, or even for the conservation of water for ordinary farm use. But on almost every farm a small dam will be found, and in a few places large reservoirs exist, which were constructed entirely by private enterprise. This is essentially a pastoral and not an agricultural district. Its products are confined entirely to wool, feathers, and skins. It grows absolutely nothing, not even horse forage.

The following figures will give an idea of the approximate quantity, and value of the produce of the whole district during the year:—

5,500	Bales unwashed wool valued at	£55,000
30,000	Skins „ „	2,000
	Ostrich feathers	20,000

The ostrich industry is increasing with great rapidity. These birds are to be found on every farm, and it is estimated that there are not fewer than ten

thousand domesticated ostriches in the district at the present moment; and doubtless the number will be doubled in a short time.

The public revenue, although considerably curtailed owing to the transfer in January last of one fourth of the district to Carnarvon, will nevertheless reach £25,000.

There is nothing unusual to notice in connection with the public health, if the loathsome contagious disease known as *Syphilis* be excepted. This shocking scourge has for years permeated the whole district, until it has infected nearly every native family, and has made its way into a large number of European households as well: men and women, as well as children of all ages, of both sexes, and of all nationalities, have fallen victims to this dreadful malady. The Gaol Hospital is rarely ever without syphilitic inmates, and the same may be said of the Lock-up Hospital at Sutherland; and yet it is well known that only a very small percentage of the afflicted persons present themselves for medical treatment.

Pneumonia and *pleurisy* are common diseases amongst all classes, owing to frequent and sudden changes in the temperature from one extreme to another. As an example of this the Civil Commissioner mentions that it was so extremely hot on the 16th November last, when he was travelling to Sutherland, that the lightest clothing was almost unbearable, whilst forty hours later, on the return journey, he was almost benumbed with cold; the mountains were covered with snow, and two thousand newly shorn sheep were frozen to death.

Rheumatism is also very prevalent, but heart complications, so commonly observed as following this disease in other countries, are exceedingly rare. In the early part of the year there was a wide spread epidemic of diphtheria, which owing to the usual carelessness of the Boers in such matters, and the want of proper hygienic measures in their dwellings, proved very fatal. Epidemics as a rule are at first slightingly treated by these people; but as they become more general, extreme fear takes the place of carelessness, and the result is equally disastrous.

The inhabitants of Sutherland and Amandelboom, two thriving villages about 13 hours, or 75 miles from Fraserburg, have had justice brought to their doors by the establishment of bi-monthly Periodical Courts at each station. This was a very necessary measure, and it appears to have answered well. The laws are now observed and general satisfaction is felt and expressed on all sides.

Crime appears to be rather on the increase, or it may only be that many offenders who formerly escaped punishment are now brought to justice. Sheep-stealing is very prevalent, more so indeed than in some Eastern Districts in which the Civil Commissioner has served; and there is certainly more drunkenness amongst the coloured people than he had ever before met within any other part of the Colony. This is undoubtedly attributable to the facility with which cheap liquor in the shape of Cape Brandy is everywhere procurable. Every shop in the district has a "bottle store" or retail wine and spirit licence attached to it, and thus canteens are scattered broadcast all over the land. The profit from this trade is undoubtedly very great; but independently of this, it is asserted that some storekeepers, who would prefer to have no connection with the liquor traffic, are obliged in self defence to deal in wine and spirits, as otherwise their ordinary trade would fall off, customers preferring to deal where liquor is obtainable. It seems to be the custom of the country, and it could not easily be altered.

The aboriginal inhabitants of the district are almost exclusively miserable

specimens of the Koranna, Hottentot, and Bushman races, with an inconsiderable sprinkling of "Masutos" and other stone working tribes from far north. These latter people find plenty of employment in constructing loose stone walls for ostrich camps. The usual remuneration is one shilling and six-pence per yard. On some farms there are from eight to twelve thousand yards of stone walls built by the Masutos and Makatees. The Korannas, Hottentots, and Bushman are chiefly employed as shepherds and ostrich herds, they are the most hardy, enduring, and uncomplaining people to be found in the Colony; but they are every year becoming scarcer, and in less than twenty years it is probable that they will have entirely disappeared.

Since 1878 farmers have constantly complained of the difficulty of getting servants. This is not surprising, seeing that as a rule no inducement at all is held out to these useful people to continue in service. Their food is often wholly insufficient, they are expected to live in holes in the rocks, or behind a stunted bush, their wages nominally vary from five shillings to a goat or sheep per month, and when pay day comes, at the end of a year or two it may be, it is quite a usual thing for the master to bring a contra claim against them for sheep alleged to have been lost, or for some articles of clothing supplied, equal to or exceeding the amount of wages due; words then follow and the transaction ends with an assault in which the master is the aggressor. Cases of this sort are of frequent occurrence. There are again many employers who treat their servants honestly and humanely, and from these no complaint of scarcity of farm labour is heard. Unquestionably, the serving races are often indolent and neglectful, and provoke their employers to the verge of endurance; but if they met with more consideration, and were made to feel that a life of industry and the acquisition of property would tend to their future happiness and social comfort, their characters and state would be improved to the mutual advantage of both employer and employed. As it is, these people have no aim or object in life beyond a bottle of brandy; and they have often been heard to say "what use are sheep or other property to us." Only lately a man who had served his master faithfully for many years received his wages in the shape of a couple of dozen sheep, and not knowing what to do, brought them to the village, and in ten days he had sold or devoured everyone, and was then prosecuted under the vagrancy Act. Nearly all these people are heathens and have never seen a chapel, a school, or a missionary in their lives.

VICTORIA WEST.

Although this division is pre-eminently a pastoral one, and posesses some of the best sheep walks to be met with in the Colony, there are studded over it small tracks of country of surpassing fertility, well suited for agriculture and requiring only an abundance of that necessary element, water, to make them disclose their natural productiveness.

These tracks of land whenever well irrigated, yield vegetables and fruit of every variety in rich profusion, and return to the thrifty husbandman from thirty to eighty fold whatever cereal he commits to the soil.

Like many other parts of the Colony this division is subject to constantly recurring droughts, and like most of these it is still in its infancy in the adoption of improvements for mitigating their baneful effects. Of permanent improvements by way of capacious dams and other irrigation works it possesses but few,

and little or no advantage has, as yet been taken by land owners of the Amended Irrigation Act of 1880. But latterly, and more particularly during the past year, flockmasters residing in the driest parts of the country have introduced the "pulsometer" and other steam pumps on their farms with marked success and with the most beneficial results. It was found that water was nearly always struck at available depths and that these pumps from their simple structure and certainty of working, (requiring only the fuel of the district for use, which every farm possesses in almost unlimited quantities), are most suited for those localities. During the past year the division has again suffered considerably from drought, which may be said to have grown chronic of late years, for since the close of the year 1876 the fall of rain has been excessively small and much below the annual average previously ascertained. It has been particularly severe in the parts bordering on the Orange River, known as the "back country," which were at the close of the year in the greatest extremity. From the above cause and from the prevalence of the disease known as "vomeerziekte" sheep have died by hundreds. Stock of all kinds has been reduced to a low condition and there has hardly been left a draught animal fit for use. Transport of every description being thus stopped to those parts and there being scarcely any harvest left to be gathered in, the barest necessaries of life have risen almost to famine prices.

The baneful effects of the drought are also begining to be sharply felt in the town of Victoria West where the water supply which was at no time over abundant, has been steadily diminishing for the last three years until it has now become totally inadequate to the wants of the community.

Although it has been generally acknowledged that uncommon facilities exist in the neighbourhood of the town for increasing its water supply and thus providing against times of extreme scarcity, no work commensurate with the public needs has been during all this time undertaken by the local Municipal Commissioners, who, as the guardians of the public interests, have shown a disinclination to grapple with this growing evil.

Crime has not been on the increase, and the cases of theft of stock have been few, considering the number of Koranna, Kafir and other natives wandering about the district, who pretend to be in search of work but usually evade it whenever it is offered to them by farmers.

It is to be regretted that farmers in general are not more on the alert to demand passes from them under the Pass Laws as well as under the Cattle Removal Act. Some of these natives, whilst possessing stock of their own, have been caught in the act of stealing sheep-in several instances small flocks of them-from the owners of the lands over which they were passing. But the greater number of cases of sheep-stealing have been traced to native shepherds themselves, who being usually left alone on outstations with considerable flocks under their charge, and being joined there by idlers and vagrants, have found the meeting a convenient occasion for indulging their thievish habits.

Of the coloured classes generally it may be said that they are well behaved and orderly, but averse to steady persevering labour, content to eke out their scanty earnings obtained by snatches of work. The labour market is poorly supplied and this want is proving a great drawback to farming operations.

The Divisional Police Force, consisting of two sergeants and nine privates, has been apportioned between this town, Carnarvon, Prieska and a few other stations. During the year the force has been constantly employed on patrol service,

that is as much as the parched condition of the country would permit. Although the offenders taken up by them have not been numerous, their periodical visits on outstations at uncertain times have served in a marked degree to check the commission of crime of all sorts, but especially of depredations on stock. This fact has been lost sight of by a considerable portion of the farmers residing near the town, who desire the abolition of the force on the score of expense. These men enjoying comparative immunity from thefts of this nature would seem to underrate the value of Mounted Police to the district in general. It is especially at Prieska and in that neighbourhood that the police under Inspector Mitchell have rendered important service. There, the natives, after the quelling of the recent unfortunate disturbances have made persistent attempts as before, to squat on private as well as public lands, and have only been held in check by said force. The district of Carnarvon having been detached as a fiscal division from that of Victoria West, and being likely to have a separate Divisional Council assigned to it soon, the police now stationed there, when removed and concentrated with the remainder of the force over a smaller area will thereby gain greater effectiveness.

In respect of education the division has hitherto been very deficient. Laudable efforts have indeed been made from time to time to establish and maintain in a state of efficiency a second-class mixed school, but from some unexplained cause, probably the scanty patronage which it received from the country it has repeatedly collapsed. Of late there has been a growing desire among town and country residents to resuscitate said school, and to add to it a boarding establishment. As this scheme is receiving considerable support from the public there is a fair prospect of that institution being now speedily established upon a more stable and satisfactory footing.

This town and district deservedly bear the reputation of possessing an excellent climate, but lately there has been more than ordinary sickness owing probably to the prevailing drought. The following is the District Surgeon's report on the public health :—

During the past year, 1880, there has been at one time or another a very considerable amount of sickness among the inhabitants here.

In the early part of the year whooping cough, measles and scarlatina of a light nature swept over the village and district, and in the case of whooping cough a good many deaths took place from lung complications.

During the hot months affections of the eyes have been very common, also diarrhœa and dysentery. The two last can easily be traced to impure water, an evil that could easily be remended. Syphilis prevails much among the coloured people through the district and gonorrhœa is also prevalent in the district and village.

During the cold months rheumatism, in its various forms, and chest affections have been of frequent occurrence. Diphtheria is now, and was in the early part of the year prevalent in the Carnarvon and intervening districts, but only one or two cases have broken out near this.

Cases of fever have been very few,—to my knowledge only one or two cases of typhoid fever.

Small pox has not appeared. Quinsy has been prevalent at all times."

CARNARVON.

Carnarvon is one of the recently created fiscal divisions. It was proclaimed a division from 1st January, 1880. It is composed of parts of the old divisions of Victoria West and Fraserburg. It extends to the Orange River, and is about 200 miles long, by 150 broad. The tract of country now created a division has made rapid strides during the last two and a-half years. A severe drought was experienced in 1875 to 1877, the effects of which were severely felt by the farmers, but a great improvement has since taken place.

Ostrich farming is being extensively carried on, but the chief pursuit is sheep farming

The division for its size is but scantily populated, but there is a vast tract of country recently surveyed and extending towards the Orange River, at present unoccupied, which will doubtless find occupiers, as soon as the same is offered for public competition.

Since 1878, many buildings have been erected in the village, notably, a public library, municipal offices, and a building for the Standard Bank, a branch of which is now established here. It is expected that the telegraph line will be opened within the next two months.

A very fine building for the Dutch Reformed Church is being erected at a cost more than £8,000, and a large and commodious gaol is in course of construction.

Carnarvon was formerly called "Harmsfontein" or "Schietfontein", and was established as a Rhenish Mission Station. There is a very picturesque mission church, as well as a school for natives, but the natives do not appear to take much advantage of the opportunities offered them, as hardly any tradesmen are known among them.

The native Kafirs are refugees from "Sandilli's" tribe ; it would be impossible to arrive at the nationality of the remainder of the coloured people.

The general health is good ; although lately there has been a considerable amount of low-fever. The want of rain is much felt. The veldt is "Karroo."

The revenue of the division is large, being £25,000 to £35,000 and the expenditure, including the Northren Border expenses defrayed through this station is about £15,000. For electoral purposes Carnarvon forms part of the electoral division of Victoria West. There is an increase of crime, attributable to the drought.

PRINCE ALBERT.

There is not much to report about the division during the past year.

Although the rainfall has been more abundant than for years past, being 9.72 inches against 8.55 in 1879 and 5.81 in 1878, it was not distributed equally throughout the district, and very little rain fell during the months when it was most required, consequently less grain has been sown than usual.

A severe frost did much damage to some of the vineyards, and this will have an effect on the vintage.

Now that the Excise Act is better understood, and the farmers begin to see that it is the consumer and not the producer who really pays the tax, there is less opposition to this measure. The half-yearly declarations being now collected by the Excise Officer has removed one great ground of complaint.

Many of the farmers who were foolish enough to pull up their vinestocks now see the folly of which they were guilty and bitterly regret their shortsightedness.

The first class school for girls which was opened here in May last, is working well, and was much praised by the Government Inspector.

A second class school for boys was opened in August, but has not been so well supported, owing to an opposition private school, having been started under the teachership of the late master of the mixed school.

The munificent bequest of the late Mr. Porter has enabled the committee of the Public Library here to secure a large and commodious room and otherwise improve this Institution.

Great progress in new buildings and improvements to old ones has been made during the year.

Ostrich farming continues to be carried on to a large extent in this district.

There has been little or no disease amongst cattle and sheep.

Crime is on the increase, there being 220 cases against 172 in 1879, and 137 in 1878.

The public health has been good.

WILLOWMORE.

The district of Willowmore was constituted a fiscal division on the 1st April last, and was a concession which had been long and hopefully looked for. What is now very much required is a Divisional Council as it is most inconvenient for landed proprietors to have to travel long distances to pay their road rates in one or more of the other six divisions out of which Willowmore was formed; and there are also many complaints about the bad state of the roads.

The town of Willowmore is yearly increasing in size, and a good trade is being done in the place.

The Dutch Reformed Church, a fine building capable of holding 800 persons, was completed two years ago. The congregation has been without a Minister for some time, but the want will now be supplied as a Minister of their choice has accepted a call.

The English Episcopal Church is in course of contruction. There are at present only monthly visits by a clergyman.

A branch of the Standard Bank which was established in 1877 is in a flourishing condition, each yearly statement showing an increase in the amount of business done.

In the second class Government Aided School, the boys are making considerable progress under an excellent teacher, Mr. S. H. Mitchell.

The girls school is conducted by an American lady with an assistant. Both schools are well attended.

The Public Library contains about 400 volumes and the munificent grant of £100 from the Porter Legacy will enable the committee to purchase a supply of good standard and scientific works.

The convicts under sentence of hard labour have been employed in the construction of a large dam for the conservation of rain water, which in the dry and arid Karoo is an inestimable benefit.

The burghers in this division belong to the other divisions out of which Willowmore was formed, till January next, when a revision of the lists takes place.

Fourteen burghers of the ward Traka in this division, (formerly Prince Albert) were called out, and on the ballot being taken here, there was no difficulty in getting the number. Those who were told that their names had been drawn either went themselves, or provided substitutes.

Ostrich farming is being most extensively and successfully carried on in this division.

Thunder storms having commenced early, there is every prospect of a good season.

ROBERTSON.

Trade in this divison has greatly increased during the past year, and farming operations have been generally successful.

Ostriches continue to yield a handsome remuneration for the capital invested therein, and ostrich feathers have become a staple product of this divison.

Brandy and produce in general have yielded fair returns.

The chief drawback to farming operations in this divison, is the great scarcity of water. The soil is very fertile, and a great deal more ground might be brought under cultivation, if a constant supply of water could be secured.

Some of the more energetic of our farmers have greatly increased their supply of water, by making dams, but their number is very few.

A force pump driven by steam has been placed on the bank of the Breede River, by Dr. Hanf, for the purpose of irrigating his farm, in the neighbourhood of this town, and has hitherto proved a success.

Unfortunately no improvement has been made during the year, with regard to the water supply of the town of Robertson, although there can be no doubt as to the urgent necessity for the same being greatly increased, in order to meet the present requirements of the inhabitants.

The excise duty continues to yield a considerable return towards the general revenue. The only complaints at present heard from distillers, are in connexion with the returns which they have to furnish twice a year. The general impression is that, once a year would be quite sufficient, as most of the brandy passes out of the hands of distillers, before the end of June, in each year.

During the year telegraphic communication has been opened to Robertson and Montagu, which has conferred a great boon on the inhabitants of the district generally.

The Government Schools throughout the district, continue to give great satisfaction.

Crime has been on the decrease.

SWELLENDAM.

Little can be added to the information already given, in numerous annual reports on this division. The records of the divisional establishment are now carefully preserved and will prove a valuable addition to the Archives of the Colony, extending back to some of the most interesting epochs of Colonial History.

Port Beaufort, than which few ports have better facilities for trade, is yet unused as a port of entry and discharge. Little advantage is taken of the Breede River, one of the deepest and most easily navigable rivers in this colony. Owing to early monopoly the trade was cramped, and has so remained for years, and yet Swellendam, Heidelberg, Riversdale, Bredasdorp, and the back country *via* "Southey Pass" now opened, might be made of vast importance to the trade and wellbeing of all, by goods being far more cheaply brought to those markets, and offering facilities for an extensive export trade, both coastwise and foreign, and the bay of St. Sebastian, one of the best fishing grounds on our coast, might with a better enterprize yield handsome returns of dried fish to the Mauritius, giving return cargoes of sugar &c., for which a large demand could be created by saving in freight from Cape Town,

There is scope for the establishment of several mercantile houses, in connection with the internal trade of this wide country, thickly inhabited as it is, where erven can be purchased at easy rates. Many Cape Town people invested in what was and is known as the Port Beaufort Land Company, but the erven of which are, with one or two exceptions unoccupied by buildings.

Swellendam has not yet fully recovered itself from the disastrous fire in 1865. Although some rebuilding has taken place, there are still many erven on which the buildings are in ruins. A few small immigrant tenants would do well if induced to settle here, as the soil is fairly good, and lands available, there being two new villages laid out for purchase in lots of one and two acres each, on the Buffeljacht River, six miles from Swellendam, which has abundance of water. The division as a whole is certainly improving in wealth, as many properties have been released from mortgage. The opening of a branch of the Standard Bank, has largely assisted in revival of trade, and agricultural industry. One feature however in the increase of prosperity has undoubtedly been the breeding of ostriches, (once wild in this division), but it is not an unmixed good, as many have for this industry, neglected the rearing of sheep and other stock; and it will be found at next census that the number of sheep have seriously decreased, and thus our wool export becomes less, year by year, and there is a consequent rise in the price of meat, (a serious item for the poor to bear).

The contingent of burghers sent from this division calls for some remark. The working of the Act No. 7 of 1878 was not wholly satisfactory. The burgher Act named, requires very great amendment, the fines are too low, and the magistrate ought to have a discretionary power of imprisonment with hard labour, without fine, in cases of obstinate refusal of a plain duty, as much ill-feeling has been caused by defaulters escaping on payment of the fines whilst others have paid large sums for substitutes, besides had it been known among the burghers generally, that so small a fine as £25 was incurred by refusal, those who paid for substitutes would rather have paid the lesser sum.

The disposition of the Zuurbrak under Act 12 of 1873, has not been quite successful. The erf-holders possess a large estate, which is found in practice to be beyond their control. Assistance and advice have been given them, and frequent public meetings held, by the Resident Magistrate, with the view of assisting them in the formation of a municipality in order to secure suitable regulations for the management of their local affairs, but these measures failed; in consequence of which numerous squatters have settled on these lands, and are the cause of thefts of stock, both among themselves and surrounding farmers.

The Civil Commissioner has urged the Honourable Commissioner of Crown

Lands to frame such portion of the rules agreed upon at various meetings, as may fairly come within the scope and meaning of the 7th Section of above Act for His Excellency the Governor's approval.

If this cannot be so done, then it seems advisable to enlarge the powers conveyed to the Governor under this and following sections, to enable His Excellency to cause suitable regulations to be framed ; otherwise the present unsatisfactory state of things must remain very much as it is, to the detriment and injury of the well disposed.

Thefts of stock have much diminished, since the establishment of the Divisional Police, and on the whole the division has less crime than in former years, and there is not much litigation, owing to more general prosperity.

RIVERSDALE.

There is very little to say that has not already been said in previous reports, regarding the steady progress of this fine divison.

Since the last report, the judicial district of Ladismith has been severed from the fiscal divison of Riversdale, and erected into a separate fiscal division. It (Ladismith) however, still forms part of the electoral divison of Riversdale, for Parliamentary purposes, and criminal casesbeyond the jurisdiction of the Resident Magistrate of Ladismith, are tried at the Circuit Courts held at Riversdale.

Trade is flourishing, and the large number of new buildings erected during the past year, and others in course of erection, show that money is plentiful.

Ostrich farming continues to be the most profitable occupation, large numbers of birds being constantly sent to the Eastern Province, and the bi-weekly feather sales continue to realize high prices.

The rains were abundant during the ploughing season, and large extents of land were sown with cereals. But all at once, and when most required the rains suddenly stopped, and intense heat succeeded, the thermometer on several occasions showing from 111° to 115° in the shade, and consequently the late crops were burnt up, and the harvest has fallen short of the usual yield.

The vine harvests, especially in the Karroo, are also a failure. Heavy late frosts, especially upon one occasion, destroyed nearly the whole of the grapes, and what were left were burnt up. Fruit of almost every description shared the same fate, not only in the town, but also on the farms.

An effort is being made to increase the water supply of the town. Mr. Gamble, the Hydraulic Engineer has been to Riversdale, and inspected the springs &c., and has reported most favourably, so that it is hoped an abundant supply of clear wholesome water, will, before long, be brought to the upper parts of the town for household purposes.

Mr. Hyslop, Civil Engineer, has inspected the sites for the bridge about to be erected across the Gouritz River, and a site has been fixed upon in the vicinity of Assvogelberg, known as Bonne Avontuur, by which route the distance between Riversdale and Mossel Bay will be considerably decreased.

Improved agricultural machinery is on the increase, and during the year a steam mill has been imported by Messers. Lombaard and Middleton, and is now in full and profitable work.

Measures are in progress to convert the present second-class aided boys'

school into a first-class, with boarding accommodation attached, to enable farmers to send their sons to the town for the superior education and supervision.

The Public Library has also been placed under better management than heretofore, the Civil Commissioner for the time, being the permanent president and the several ministers, being subscribers, permanent vice-presidents.

Although the changes of temperature have been very great, and the heat during the month of December more than ordinary, yet the general health of the inhabitants is good.

Strange to say, the numbers of criminal and civil cases tried in the Magistrate's Court during 1880, are about the same as during 1879, the civil cases (131) being exactly the same, and the criminal (296) three in excess of 1879.

LADISMITH.

The year 1880 has not been a very favourable one for the agricultural community of this district, owing to the severe drought. With the exception of barley, the crops reaped will be far below the average of former years.

A very severe frost in September did considerable damage to the vineyards, and the oidium having made its appearanc in a very virulent form, the vintage will be a complete failure.

In consequence of the drought and the number of birds, there will be little or no fruit of any description.

Ostrich farming continues to be carried on to a considerable extent throughout the district, and is considered most remunerating, and large tracts of country have been enclosed for ostrich camps. Owing to the scarcity of green food a great number of young birds have died during the past year. Although there has not been much increase of stock, losses by disease have been very few, and no epidemic prevailed amongst either cattle, horses or sheep.

Landed property has considerably increased in value, as much as £750 having been given for about 36 morgen of ground.

Owing to the want of its own Divisional Council, the roads in the Ladismith district are in a wretched state, but it is to be hoped that the new Divisional Council will soon remedy this evil. Great satisfaction is felt amongst all class at the idea of a railway passing through this division, as the difficulty of obtaining transport is one of the greatest drawbacks to the prosperity of the place, labour of every description is very scarce, and most of the farmers are obliged to leave the greater portion of their lands uncultivated, manual labour being unobtainable.

A great many improvements in the village of Ladismith have taken place during the past year.

Water has been laid on to the village by means of iron piping, which proves a great convenience, besides adding considerably to the health of the inhabitants.

A large dam is in course of construction, just above the village, by convict labour, which when finished will make Ladismith one of the best watered villages in the colony.

A feather market has also been started and the prices realized most satisfactory. The feathers offered for sale are of a very superior quality. A market house, which will be an ornament to the village, is in course of erection, and is being built by private subscriptions.

A branch of the Standard Bank was started here in August last and is doing very fairly.

The second-class Government School still continues to give universal satisfaction : a fine large building for school premises, has also been erected during the past year.

There have been 150 criminal cases and 20 civil in 1880 : thefts of stock have been rare, ordinary police cases and contravention of the Masters and Servants' Act making up the greater number. There have been two serious assault and one murder case.

Rainfall during 1879 14 inches and during 1880, 12.84 inches.

Health of the Division. The report of the District Surgeon is subjoined.

The health of this district during the past year has not been so good as during the year 1879.

Typhoid fever made its appearance, but for the most part was confined to one locality, till towards the months of November and December when it broke out a short distance from the place at which it first showed itself. Having examined carefully the house and premises in the first instance, I was of opinion that the diseases or typhoid germs were generated by pools of stagnant water giving up a most offensive odour, the water in those pools having been used in the distillery process, containing a quantity of decayed grape skins.

Owing to the peculiar habits of the inhabitants, their love for crowding into sick houses and sick rooms, the isolation of cases was very difficult. The filthy habit of keeping articles of food in bedrooms, has I feel certain contributed in no small degree to extend the disease.

Chest affections have also been more severe, pneumonia and bronchitis in adults, whilst croup has been very fatal to children, the percentage of deaths being very high.

The health of the village has been remarkably good. No sickness save an odd case of rheumatism.

Owing to the great extent to which ostriches suffer from tapeworm, and the presence of those birds near and in our water courses, serious apprehensions were entertained that the human system would eventually become affected. However, this danger has been obviated, as the water is now laid on to the village by means of pipes, thereby protecting it from such contamination. Indeed it was high time that this improvement was carried out as now experience proves that the fears entertained were not groundless, though tapeworm has not shown itself in man to any extent still other animals are beginning to suffer,—goats, &c., &c.

If the municipality was more active and vigilant, the sanitary state of this village could be greatly improved, as contagious diseases if not entirely prevented, at least could be held greatly in check.

UNIONDALE.

The year 1880, has notwithstanding the absence of the ordinary rains been a prosperous one. The health of the inhabitants has been good ; crops have been fair ; stock in general has thriven and the wool clip shows are increase on last year. Ostrich farming is extensively carried on, and it is estimated that about 2,400 lbs. weight of feathers were sold during the year.

There has been very little crime, and in every respect a marked progress is observable throughout the division.

A telegraph line has lately been completed to this village and the proclamation of the establishment of the municipality has also been published.

Hopes are now entertained that before long the Divisional Council will be added to the list of advancements.

This division is at present entirely dependent for the repairs and construction of its roads on the Divisional Councils of George and Oudtshoorn, which naturally enough pay most attention to improvements in their own respective divisions.

Education is progressing steadily, and every facility is now afforded to parents to enable them to give their children a thorough schooling. A boarding department has been established in connection with the girls' school in the village and, under the able and efficient management of the present Lady Principal and and her assistants, promises to be a great success. It is highly appreciated and well supported by the farmers in the division, who are beginning to see the immense advantages to be derived from an Institution of this kind.

OUDTSHOORN.

Plentiful rains having fallen in 1880, the crops are above the average.

The Divisional Council assessed a rate of 1½d. in the £, an advance on any previous rate. The Council has also voted £3,000 for the Zwartberg Road.

Trade is flourishing. Insolvencies neither important nor frequent.

Crime is on the decrease. Cases of drunkenness, prosecutions under the Vagrancy Act, and under Act 17 of 1867, &c., are rare.

Large numbers of ostriches (breeding birds), have been sent to the Eastern Province, and have realized good prices.

Contagious Diseases Act still in force, but as its provisions are intended to apply to smallpox cases, it has proved of little use in putting down syphilis and other venereal diseases.

One hundred and fifty burghers were called out in November, 1880, and proceeded to the the scene of the rebellion under command of Captain H. Ferreira.

A branch of the Cape of Good Hope Bank was opened in November, 1880.

Good demand exists for artisans, mechanics, labourers, and domestic servants.

Schools in connection with the Dutch Church will be opened shortly.

KNYSNA.

The division of Knysna is situated on the south coast of the Colony, about 350 miles from Cape Town. It lies between the sea and a range of lofty mountains, called the Outeniqua, from which flow innumerable streams and rivers affording and abundant and permanent supply of water to every part of the division.

One half of the whole extent of the division is covered by splendid forests, chiefly the property of the Crown, which yield from eighteen to twenty varieties of valuable timber. Many kinds of this wood are of particularly fine grain and colour, suitable to the manufacture of handsome furniture. They will prove a

source of great wealth to the Colony when known to European manufacturers, and it is to be regretted that they are not more strictly preserved at the present time.

The open lands produce a fairly good and permanent pasturage, which may be equally divided between the sweet and sour grasses of which it is composed.

Cattle, horses, and ostriches do well with little care. Sheep require more attention than they do in the Karroo district. The southdown would appear to thrive better than the merino ; and cheviots might be kept here to great advantage.

The rainfall is regular and abundant, rendering the labour of irrigation unnecessary, except on very rare occasions.

The soil, in the vicinity of the forests, is light and rich, capable of producing fine crops for several years without manure. The soil generally is of a fair quality and with manure, produces good and remunerative crops of wheat, barley, oats, mealies, potatoes, yams and tobacco. The greater number of these crops may be grown twice a year.

The Knysna Harbour, near which the village of Knysna is situated, would undoubtedly be the finest on the coast of Southern Africa, but for its only drawback viz., the bar at the entrance which at times causes a rough sea in its vicinity, dangerous to sailing vessels. This bar, however, is of rock and can be removed by the use of dynamite, at a comparatively small cost. As it is, the depth of water on the bar is never less than three fathoms. Having entered the harbour, vessels are as safe as in dock. The Government has recently decided upon building a wharf at Knysna, during the ensuing year, at which vessels drawing not more than twenty feet may receive and discharge cargo, without the aid of boats.

The climate is extremely healthy ; and it is especially adapted to Europeans. Epidemic disease is little known.

During the current year, great progress in every branch of industry has been made, and greater progress is anticipated in the next, about two hundred souls having been introduced from Britain, and settled as immigrants upon some of the waste lands, and more are expected.

Knysna is capable of supporting a dense population and is of all divisions of the Colony well suited to the poor man in search of a home. A regular rainfall, an abundant water supply, good pasturage, good soil, a fine climate, an excellent harbour, a mine of sylvan wealth, with other possible advantages, appear to justify the assertion that Knysna in the course of a few years will be one of the finest divisions of the Colony.

HUMANSDORP.

The year 1880 has been, on the whole, a prosperous one, so that the farmers have not had much reason to complain. The winter rains were copious and early. No complaints have been heard about rust.

Ostrich farming appears to be very attractive, for it has extended considerably.

Landed property is at fair value, several farmers have removed to the Transvaal, and other places, and in parting with their farms have all realized full value.

The general health throughout the division has been good; and every description of stock, with the exception of sheep, appears to thrive.

Crime has decreased during the year, and very few cases of thefts of stock have been heard of.

Humansdorp has contributed to aid in putting down the present rebellion. A troop of Yeomanry left in September, and fifty burghers left in November, for the front.

The pleasing fact is noticeable that since the erection of the light-house at Cape St. Francis, in July 1878, no wrecks have occurred on the coast bordering this division. Prior to this date wrecks were tolerably frequent.

UITENHAGE.

During the year rains have been frequent and very general throughout the district, fair crops of grain have been reaped, stock of all kinds have been in good condition and healthy, and farmers realized very remunerative prices, for their produce and stock.

Ostrich farming has increased to a very large extent, and an Ostrich Farming Company has recently been established, under most favourable prospects, on some farms in the Winterhoek admirably suited to the purpose, shares in this enterprise are greatly in demand, and at a considerable premium.

The general health of the inhabitants has been good: the climate, particularly in the upper parts of the division is most salubrious.

The population of the town has considerably increased, and large number of houses have been built, many of a superior class and an ornament to the town.

For several years past the expense of living has gradually increased, and all necessaries are now at such high rates that persons with limited incomes suffer considerably; the proximity of this town to the seaport of Port Elizabeth may be the cause of this, vegetables and produce being so readily conveyed by rail to that market, thus rendering living here quite as expensive as in that town.

The 3rd Yeomanry Regiment under Colonel Minto left for the rebellion in Basutoland in October, and were followed early in November by a contingent of the Burgher Force of 95 men and officers. The call on the Burgher Force was readily complied with, although the first under the Burgher Act of 1878 and at great inconvenience and serious loss to many. The troop under command of Captain Korkman is still on Active Service.

Crime has decreased, particularly thefts of stock.

JANSENVILLE.

Under the provisions of Act No. 36 of 1879, Jansenville was created a fiscal division from 1st January, 1880. Its area is roughly estimated at 2,500 square miles, there are 121 quitrent farms, bringing in a yearly revenue of £936 3s. 7d. 45 crown land lots leased under the provisions of Act 19, 1864, the lease rent upon which amounts yearly to £2211, and nineteen lots of unsurveyed Crown land leased for short periods for the sum of £290 yearly. Besides the Crown lands above enumerated there are several pieces of surveyed ground some of which will be sold upon quitrent under Act 14 of 1878, during the course of next year. The chief town, situated on the banks of the Sunday's River, which is crossed by an iron bridge erected some six years ago by the Public Works Department is of

teen miles distant from Mount Stewart, the nearest railway station. Sheep, goat and cattle farming is extensively carried on, and throughout the division generally ostrich farming engages a good deal of attention.

In this division is the well known Mount Stewart estate, in extent some 40,000 acres, under the supervision and charge of one of the partners, Mr. J. H. Featherstone, one of the most energetic and enterprising farmers in the province. It was proposed to form a company to secure this estate with the stock and to carry on general and ostrich farming, but owing to an insufficient number of shares having been taken, the project has for the present fallen through. Considerable cultivation takes place along the banks of the Sunday's River which flows through the district from north to south-east. In time of drought the supply of water in the river is insufficient for irrigation, and on several occasions crops have been lost in consequence. It is to be regretted that the agriculturists have not yet made use of the Irrigation Act towards ensuring a good and certain supply of water; but apathy is to some extent probably the cause.

There is not a Government aided school in the whole division at present, in spite of the strenuous efforts made towards establishing one, by those who have the welfare of the division at heart. Some difference of opinion exists as to the advantages an undenominational school has over one of an opposite nature, as well as to the question of compulsory instruction through the medium of the English language which is required in schools deriving Government aid. A good deal of indifference is shown to the establishment of any school upon whatever basis it may be formed. It is to be trusted however, that before long the proposed scheme of the Educational Commission may evolve a more satisfactory state of matters in this respect.

The value of the landed property in this division, lately assessed for Divisional Council purposes, amounts to £240,228. No Divisional Council is yet in existence; this division, for such purposes, belonging to, or forming part of the division of Uitenhage. The branch roads, with the exception of the one to the railway station at Mount Stewart, are in a miserable state, nothing having been done towards their repair by the Council which derives the taxpayers money. It will be a great boon to this class of persons as well as to the public generally, when they can ensure the expenditure of their contributions in their own division.

Crime has very much diminished the last two years. For the greater part of a month in the current year the gaol was empty. A good season, proper police surveillance, regular patrolling of the division by two men of the Uitenhage Divisonal Police, and a due carrying out of the Pass and Vagrant Laws have had, to a good extent, the effect of causing this dimiuution.

ALEXANDRIA.

In the early part of this year copious showers fell, greatly benefiting the late mealie crops of which there was an abundant harvest, providing the natives with an ample supply of food for the winter. During July, August, and September the rains enabled the farmers to sow a large amount of barley, wheat, and oats.

The wheat crop has not turned out as well as was expected, owing to rust [illegible] its appearance in some places; the barley crop was unusually large

this year, and the demand in excess of other years, and the prices high, as farmers and others having taken extensively to the breeding of ostriches, and require the grain for the purpose of feeding the birds.

The oathay crop has been very fair and good prices obtained at both Port Elizabeth and Graham's Town markets, in consequence of the great amount required for horses passing through those towns on their way to the seat of war.

Lung-sickness has not been so prevalent among cattle this year, as the farmers have been more careful in their purchases of cattle coming from other parts.

Notwithstanding the rebellion beyond the Kei and in Basutoland the natives in this division have been very quiet and satisfied, there being a great demand for native labour here, and sufficient supply of food and facilities for grazing their stock.

There are twenty-seven Native Locations under Act No. 8, 1878, established in this division, and the farmers have felt no inconvenience therefrom; on the contrary, they are anxious to have locations on their farms. There has been no dissatisfaction to the branding of cattle under the Act, the reasons for doing so having been well explained to the natives, it is therefore in full force in this division.

No difficulty has been experienced in collecting the revenue. The house tax for 1879 has all been paid up with one exception, the result of a clerical error; and there is only a small amount at present outstanding for the year 1880.

The general health of the inhabitants has been very good, no epidemics of any kind having occurred during the year.

Thefts of stock have been very few in number, owing, it is said, to the ample supply of food, and to the exertions of the Divisional Police, established this year, who are constantly patrolling the district.

A second-class girls' school has been established this year in the village, and is progressing favourably.

On the Proclamation being issued calling out seventy-five of the first-class burghers here, some commotion was created, as was natural, but little or no difficulty was experienced in starting the required number within a very short space of time.

BATHURST.

The division has made considerable advancement during the year in agriculture, stock and ostrich farming and the use of agricultural machinery.

A larger extent of land has been placed under cultivation than heretofore, and from the Bushman's River to the Fish River, the coast line boundaries of the division, there is hardly a single farm upon which ostriches are not now kept.

The drought was very severe in the early part of the sowing season, and in consequence the wheat crops are smaller and lighter than last season, while in some places rust has partially damaged the wheat.

The crops however on the whole will yield a fair average return.

The copious down-pour during the months of October and November enabled the farmers to sow an unusually large quantity of mealies, which, since the introduction of ostriches into this division, is considered the most remunerative crop that can be produced for the market, and for which there is always a ready sale.

It is worth noticing that while ostrich farming was carried on last year by comparatively a few farmers, there are now very few farms where birds do not form the principle farming pursuit.

This industry is therefore no longer confined to a few in its operations, but has become generally established.

The succulent food on old uncultivated lands is conducive to the growth and health of the birds and should feathers maintain their price this very lucrative employment will greatly increase the wealth and importance of this division.

Farmers will now be induced to purchase reaping and thrashing machines, to invest in improved agricultural implements and machinery and by enclosing a large area of land by fencing, will thereby enhance the value of their properties.

The provisions of the Peace Preservation Act have been carried out in a very satisfactory manner, the natives having willingly complied with the law. There have been some exceptions arising from ignorance of the law, or from a misapprehension that the permit granted under Ordinance, No. 2 of 1853, was still valid and exempted the person holding it from delivering up his gun in a proclaimed area. In some cases the possession of arms without a licence has been elicited in evidence taken at a preliminary examination in support of quite another charge.

The number of weapons which have been voluntarily deposited are :—guns 57, assegais 13 ; the number of convictions for having (*a*) guns only 5 ; (*b*) assegais only 2 ; (*c*) guns and assegais 2.

The Inspectors of natives have exercised great moderation in enforcing the law respecting the branding of cattle belonging to residents within any native location.

The natives are quiet and industrious. They are employed chiefly in transport riding and farming, some having as many as two hundred acres of land under cultivation.

The immense consumption of produce for ostriches offers very profitable returns. Those natives who are owners of stock hire their cattle on favourable terms.

The working of the Peace Preservation and the Native Location Acts have during the year received a large share of public attention.

It is gratifying to record that there has not been a single case reported of cattle theft.

In connection with the general advancement of the division there are indications of improvement in the villages of Bathurst and Port Alfred, in the former by the establishment of a municipality and in the latter by the establishment of a library, the erection of several houses and the planting of a variety of trees such as mixed gums, seaside pines, &c.

The lowering of freights by the U.S.S Company's vessels calling at this Port, will no doubt advance its commercial interests and cause a revival in trade, which for the past few years has been declining.

The health of the district has been decidedly good, there are fewer accidents of a severe nature to report than last year, and no epidemic of any kind has made its appearance.

VICTORIA EAST.

The division suffered severely from a protracted drought in the beginning of the year, so much so that only at a few places mealies and Kafir corn could be

planted. The drought did not break up till about the middle of February when it was too late to sow, the consequence is there have been no crops in many places, and a scanty food supply is the result. Many of the natives are now badly off for food.

Fortunately a few sowed barley and potatoes during the winter, which yielded well, and which now proves a great help to them. It is to be hoped that the eyes of many will be opened, and that they will see the advantages of putting in a variety of crops whenever there is a chance, and thus not be wholly dependent on mealies and Kafir corn.

Fine rains have now fallen and immense tracts of ground have been brought under cultivation ; if the season continues favourable a plentiful harvest may be anticipated.

Ostrich farming is finding much favour amongst farmers and others. There are now several persons who own these birds, and the district seems admirably suited for this industry.

Sheep do not thrive here, and of late years sheep farming has been a total failure so far as keeping large flocks is concerned, owing to great mortality amongst these animals from various causes. When kept in small flocks of not exceeding 150 to 200 they seem to answer well, and about the native locations, many small flocks may be seen in good conditon and free from scab.

Rust is reported as having shewn itself in some of the wheat crops, but on the whole the crops of cereals of all kinds are promising well.

Oathay has been cheap and plentiful throughout the year.

Large cattle have been free from disease, and as there was good pasturage during the winter, they kept in good condition.

On some farms there is a difficulty in rearing calves,—they suffer from "hair balls" in the stomach and from gall sickness, a good many young animals have been lost from these causes. The matter has been specially brought to the notice of the Veterinary Surgeon, Mr. Hutchins, on his recent visit to this place.

Stock stealing is now more prevalent than it has been during the whole year. Several cases have been reported, but in most instances the thieves have not been found out. The Divisional Council during the year reduced the District Police to six men, which number is quite inadequate to the requirements of a district with a large population of natives, and the Council have recently resolved on doing away with the force altogether from and after February next year, as they consider that the extra police rate falls too heavily on the rate payers.

Crimes of a serious nature are of rare occurrence. A great deal of time is taken up in hearing native civil cases,—generally contested cattle cases, of which a good many have been disposed of during the year.

There has only been one insignificant case of insolvency during the year. A Branch of the Bank of Africa has been established lately, this is considered a great convenience and a want long felt has thus been supplied.

The Road over the Hogsback, although not yet declared a main road has been completed, and may be travelled over with safety and comfort. There is room for improvement in a few places, these will receive attention at the hands of the Council. The construction of this road has been a great undertaking for so small a division, perhaps too great. The expenses connected with keeping it in repair will be a heavy drain on the already limited funds of the Council, and this is a case in which Government aid, in the shape of an annual contribution towards maintenance, may not unreasonably be solicited. The roads in

Division are not in first rate order, and they have suffered much from recent heavy rains, efforts are however being made to repair the damages.

Education has been placed within easy reach of all. Besides the well known Institution at Lovedale there are two Government aided schools in Alice, one for boys and one for girls, and a couple of private schools for young children, and also four native schools in different parts of the division under native teachers, all of which are well attended.

Tree planting has received considerable attention during the year, some six hundred young trees having been planted about the town.

The general health of the inhabitants has been good.

STOCKENSTROM.

The division has been blessed with seasonable rains so that every available piece of land has been cultivated and the crops of every description are looking splendid and a large yield of grain is expected.

The pasturage is exceedingly fine this year, and there has been very little sickness amongst stock, which will greatly add to the prosperity of the inhabitants.

Ostrich farming is on the increase, but it has not interfered with ordinary farming operations, and the birds seem to do remarkably well on the old lands. Landed property is steadily increasing in value.

The want of skilled artisans is much felt and sober and industrious mechanics would meet with ready employment. Domestic servants are plentiful and good in this division.

A good many cases of stock-stealing have been reported, owing in a great measure to cattle being allowed to run day and night without herds, and in the absence of a Divisional Police force it is almost impossible to capture the thieves as some time generally elapses before the thefts are found out and the cases reported. During the year only five persons have been convicted of this crime.

There has been a great falling off of civil cases tried in the magistrates' court. This must be looked upon as a sign of prosperity. The want of a bank in this division, and of telegraphic communication with the rest of the Colony is very much felt. The first-class aided school is doing good work for this division, and extensive buildings, being part of the Eland's Post Fort have been given by Government for school-rooms and a residence for the teachers which will greatly assist the cause of education.

The Seymour Public Library is well supported by the people and through the munificence of the late Honourable W. Porter, £100 has been added to the funds which will secure a valuable addition to the books.

There has been very little sickness amongst the people, and Eland's Post is once of the healthiest places in the Colony.

The Native Location Acts have been carried out in this division without any difficulty or opposition. The natives pay their taxes punctually and about 300 of our Hottentots are now engaged on Active Service in Basutoland and the frontier.

SOMERSET EAST.

~~The year~~ 1880 has been an exceptionally good one, specially in regard to rainfall, viz., 28 inches as registered at ~~the~~ gaol, in consequence of which the pasturage

is extremely good, springs have been strengthened, and dams well supplied with water, a large area of ground is under cultivation and a good harvest is anticipated. The Agricultural Society has been re-established, and held its first show in May this year, and its finances are in a very prosperous condition, the exhibits in cattle, angora goats, and ostrich feathers were very superior. A good many enterprizing young men have purchased and hired ground in the much-despised Karroo veld along the Vogel River, where the ostrich industry is being worked on a large scale, and that part of the division, as well as the Brak River ward, is specially adapted for ostriches, and could not be excelled by any other part of the Colony.

Public Works.—Railway communication has been opened up to Cookhouse which is situated fifteen miles from Somerset; passenger carts run daily between the abovenamed places. The town has been improved by the building of a very large and commodious Town Hall at the cost of £2,500. The Commissioners have borrowed £14,000, for the purpose of making a reservoir, and bringing the water down in pipes to the town.

Crime.—Stock-lifting has decreased considerably, which is attributed greatly to the presence of the District Mounted Police.

The burghers of the division responded heartily to the call of the Government to aid in quelling the rebellion in Basutoland.

MIDDELBURG.

This has been the only bad year in the division of Middelburg since the flood of 1874.

There was drought up to October, not however resulting in the loss of stock. Seasonable rains set in, and there was every hope of a prosperous year. Early in November an unprecedented snow storm set in: unhappily many farmers had shorn, thinking that the season was too advanced for such severe weather, consequently all who had just shorn lost great numbers of sheep. Many goats died of the cold, and herds of cattle, blinded by the snow storm, rushing down steep places were dashed to pieces. It may be calculated that not less than 20,000 sheep, and 500 head of cattle perished. The loss in ostriches was comparatively small. It is to be hoped that this severe infliction will induce farmers to erect sheds for the protection of all kinds of stock during inclement periods. Nothing short of the serious losses which have taken place in this and neighbouring divisions will induce them to make provision for seasons which may turn summer into winter in a single night. There is sufficient material, even in this bare district, for the purpose. Stone walls can be run up anywhere, and there are poplar poles and rushes enough to thatch all the sheds that may be required. Graziers have yet to learn the simple truth that it is as necessary for them to devote a portion of their capital to the protection of their stock, as for merchants to secure their goods against the exigencies of the weather.

The health of all kinds of stock has been good. Ostrich farming is extending on every hand, the most illiberal and conservative have been tempted by the great profits, to enclose, some, it is true, only small camps, others have put up very temporary and inexpensive fences; but all feel convinced of the absolute necessity of enclosing, and money has been freely spent to secure the same. Some of the more enterprising farmers have spend thousands, and their stone and wire fencing may be reckoned by the mile. The sale of feathers grown in this division far

exceeds the loss in wool during the last decade. Already has the pasturage in ostrich camps become greatly improved, it needs but a few more years of fencing to restore and conserve the worn and trodden out veld. The Ostrich has also stimulated the production of grain and the growth of green stuff to a considerable extent.

Horses in large numbers have been sold for Colonial Defence purposes, but our breeders have not yet succeeded in producing a sufficient number to meet the army standard. Too many useless horses are kept. The harvest is above the average yield, larger breadths of land have also been cultivated, the only drawback was parasites during the drought, from which the crops recovered, but we have been spared the destructive hailstorms which have visited other parts. The water supply of this division is so good, that cultivation is capable of very great development and extension.

Food supply.—This is a subject of growing importance, owing to the heavy loss of stock, and the great demand with ever increasing population. A farmer in this district is trying to supply the meat market, by breeding first cross between Cape and merino sheep, by means of which a two year old wether will have the carcase of a four year old merino hamell, and, especially in season of drought be much fatter. A forty pound wether is now scarce at a guinea, there can therefore be no doubt that the bastard sheep will pay the growers for the loss of wool and will considerably relieve the meat market.

We have arrived at that stage when early maturity is of vital importance, and graziers will find their profit in preparing sheep and oxen for the butcher. When our beautiful vleys are enclosed, especially when sown with grass seeds, and cultivated with root crops, and cattle stall-fed, this growing want will be properly supplied. There can be no real progress in dairy farming till this is effected. The ostrich is silently bringing about a revolution, it has initiated, and is preparing the way for improved stock farming, and its influence on agriculture can hardly be estimated.

Crime.—There has been more crime this year than last, sheep stealing prevailed at one time, for which no cause can be assigned. There have been very few cases under the Vagrant Act. The health of the inhabitants has been good, but whooping cough prevailed proving fatal to many native children.

Trade has been fairly prosperous, there has not been a single insolvency during the year.

GRAAFF-REINET.

About one-third of the farms in the Graaff-Reinet division have been transferred to the new fiscal divisions of Aberdeen, Willowmore and Jansenville, and although a decrease in land revenue is the necessary result to Graaff-Reinet, an increase of revenue from other sources for 1881-2 will be found to have more than compensated for the loss.

The Municipality of Graaff-Reinet has been incorporated by Act of Parliament No. 10 of 1880, in terms of which a Mayor and Town Council have been elected.

At Bethesda, a village about forty-eight miles from Graaff-Reinet and close to Compassberg or Spitzkop, the highest point in the division, a Periodical Court has been established since August, 188 In December there were fifteen cases, civil and criminal, for adjudication.

As regards crime generally in the division, there has been a great diminution, particularly as regards thefts of stock. There is no doubt that the existence of the Divisional Police of twenty-two mounted men under Inspector Bland, has had much to do with deterring parties from committing thefts, and the stoppage of vagrancy.

Ostrich farming appears to be prospering, and therefore extending, it is feared, to the prejudice of agriculture, sheep and goat farming. During the year heavy snow storms have caused serious losses in stock as well as ostriches. Farmers had deferred shearing till late in the season, but unfortunately sustained these heavy losses after shearing in the months of October and November, 1880.

Though war has been raging on our borders, it is gratifying to notice that the bearing of the natives in this town and division has been everything that could be desired.

HOPE TOWN.

Division essentially pastoral, very few fountains, most farms having only dams and wells, result is that prices of cereals are generally very high. Wheat ranges from £3 to £5 per muid; mealies from £2 10s. to £4 10s. per muid; oat-hay from 1s. to 2s. 6d. per bundle; barley 30s. to 60s. per bag; chaff 20s. to 45s. per bale.

Stock is of a very ordinary kind, and very few farmers endeavour to improve it by purchasing imported stock. This may be accounted for in the following ways:—1st. There are very few rich farmers who can afford it. 2nd. Most farmers are struggling to save sufficient money to enable them to purchase and pay for the farms at present leased from Government; and 3rd. The severe droughts with which this part is so frequently visited have taught them to be very cautious.

There is, however, no doubt that when these farmers have their farms and stock paid for, they will readily co-operate in the establishment of an Agricultural Society and a Farmers' Association, and this could be more easily effected by the districts of Hope Town and the newly annexed district, Herbert, combining.

Ostrich farming is progressing, but not to the detriment of stock farming; not much disease amongst stock. The drought has continued throughout the year in many parts of the division, but nevertheless stock has increased considerably.

Pasturage is admirably adapted for all kinds of stock and for ostriches, but permanent waters are scarce. On many farms wells ranging from 30 to 90 feet in depth, have been sunk during the year and good water found.

Schools.—Hope Town Undenominational Aided Public School has been raised to a First-class and services of Mr. and Mrs. Morris secured for a further term of three years. They have given general satisfaction.

Religious and moral state of community is unsatisfactory. The Rev. W. P. Rousseau has resigned as Minister of the Dutch Reformed Church, and there is now no Minister of the Gospel in the division.

Petrusville School which numbered over 60 pupils has, through adverse circumstances, been closed, but the inhabitants of the village and surrounding farms will re-open it again as soon as a competent teacher can be procured.

Crimes and Misdemeanours.—Judging from the decrease in the number of criminal cases tried this year, viz., 101, it is clear that a deterring influence is at work, and which appears to be the more frequent application of spare diet and solitary confinement sentences. There were tried:—In 1879, 358 criminal cases; in 1880, 257 criminal cases; in 1879, 15 civil cases; in 1880, 14 civil cases.

General health of community.—The subjoined report has been kindly furnished by the District Surgeon, and from it may be gathered information on this point as the prevailing sicknesses and diseases in this division, during the year 1880 are also specified.

Medical Report, Hope Town.—The year 1880 has been one of great prevalence of sickness from various different diseases. Of these the most prevalent, and the most fatal, has been diphtheria, which broke out in February, and continued with intermissions until October.

The mortality from this disease on some of the farms, remote from the village and in the adjoining district of Herbert, has been frightful, some parents having lost all their children. In the latter district, on two adjoining farms, twenty-five children died.

About 200 cases in all came under the actual observation and treatment of the district surgeon, of which only one actually died of diphtheria. Three others having recovered from that disease, died subsequently, one of gastritis, one of fits (to which it had been subject for several months previously), and one of the bursting of an internal abscess.

This result shows most distinctly the value of the prompt and early use of specific treatment, for not only was the mortality extraordinarily small, but the recovery was very rapid, averaging less than three days for each case, and moreover paralysis, so common after attacks of diphtheria, and especially so in this epidemic, occurred only in the case of one patient.

Pneumonia has been frequent to an extent never known in Hope Town before; the cases were severe, and one or two ended fatally. In several instances the disease seemed to have been distinctly conveyed by infection.

Besides these two diseases, diarrhœa has been exceedingly prevalent, with one case of cholera, not differing in any respect from a severe case of Asiatic cholera; the patient who was first seen when in a state of collapse recovered.

Splenic fever broke out during the year at Leeuwberg, destroying a number of cattle of various sorts, and resulting in several persons on the farm being infected with malignant pustule; during the latter half of the year, a few cases of puerperal fever and of scarlet fever have occurred.

The increasing number of persons suffering from syphilis is a matter to which it is desirable that the attention both of the Government and of the public should be directed. In no year has the disease been so wide spread as during the present, and its spread is at present unchecked by any public measure. The present Contagious Diseases Act is only applicable to towns and villages having a Municipality, and thus leaving the country unprotected, and even in such places seeming to be of but little value. It is the more to be wished that adequate Legislative means should be taken to check the disease as the majority of the victims are young children; certainly in this part of the country three-fourths of the number are below ten years of age.

COLESBERG.

Unfortunately the year has ended with a pretty severe drought, which is being felt throughout the division. It is, however, not yet so bad as to have caused any severe stock losses amongst the farmers, though the carriers have been losing oxen for some months past, all along the road from Colesberg to Ioemfontein.

Perhaps the most important matter for the division, as well as for the new Diamond-fields at Jagersfontein near Fauresmith in the Orange Free State, has been the completion and opening for public traffic of the Colesberg Bridge over the Orange River. This bridge is a magnificent structure, and has been brought to a most successful completion.

The call for burghers for service against the rebel Basutos extended to Colesberg, and was well responded to. 199 out of 200 asked for, started for the front. All these were selected from the first-class, a very fine body of young men fairly mounted and well officered.

The health of the inhabitants of the town has not been good, and it is in contemplation to make some much required improvements in the sanitary arrangements of the place. Both the medical men complain to the Municipal Commissioners regarding the management of the water supply and the washing places, and the district surgeon having lately formally addressed the corporation upon the subject, it is hoped that the matter will receive the consideration which the importance of it requires and demands. The town itself has been improved in some respects, the Commissioners of the Municipality have proceeded energetically with tree planting, and have placed a good iron bridge over a wide and deep watercourse, which runs through the town, thus securing vehicle communication between the two sides of the town, the want of which was found very inconvenient. There is a general feeling, however, that the Commissioners will not have satisfied public requirements until they have seen carefully to the water supply, and have taken steps for the erection of a Town Hall worthy of so old a town as Colesberg.

The amount of crime has hardly increased or decreased. Three hundred and sixty-six cases were adjudicated by the magistrate and about twenty were sent to the Circuit Court. The Divisional Police Force is fairly efficient, and the existence of it without doubt prevents stock lifting to a very considerable extent; the Council has a plan in hand for still further increasing its efficiency by the appointment of an able and energetic inspector.

In the town of Colesberg there is a first-class aided school, which, however, is in hardly as forward a position as might be hoped for in so large and old established a place. A portion of this division and a portion of Richmond have been constituted the fiscal division of Hanover.

Ostriches continue to flourish in all parts of the district, though many breeders of them have had heavy losses through a disease which attacks the young birds, and for which no sure remedy has yet been discovered. Colesberg still holds its prominent position in the Colony for horse breeding, and new importations of first-class stock are continually being made. The harvest promises fairly.

HANOVER.

By proclamation No. 132, dated 1st November, 1879, the district of Hanover was from and after that date created a division for fiscal purposes under Act 36 of 1879, with the boundaries given in Proclamation No. 33, 1877 (amending Proclamation 83, 1876).

The division of Hanover is larger than many of the older divisions, and as thickly populated as surrounding districts. The establishment of a Divisional

Council for this division would be no additional expense to the Government, while (the roads being mostly all on the level without mountain-passes) a positive saving in road rates might be fairly expected by the ratepayers in the division. Pending the establishment of a Divisional Council, the management of the roads, rates, pounds, &c., remains in the hands of the Councils of the divisions from which Hanover has been formed, *i. e.* Richmond and Colesberg.

Since the proclamation of the fiscal division, property has risen in value very considerably, and its value is expected to be still further enhanced by the establishment of the Divisional Council.

The number of springs in this division, (on almost every farm,) enables farmers to irrigate their lands in the driest seasons, so that Hanover has supplied the neighbouring districts from time to time with much grain: to such an extent has this system been carried that the villagers have had to eat flour and meal imported from Australia. The farmers, of course, sell where they get the highest price, but professional speculators watch the markets, and buy up the produce, which is then sent to where there is a scarcity.

Hanover has suffered, like the adjoining divisions, from drought. The veldt has failed, and numbers of cattle, sheep, &c., have been lost, nearly ruining the farmers. The recent changes from heat to cold has also caused much loss, especially among the newly shorn sheep and ostriches.

The storekeepers have forwarded for export from here more than 2,500 bales of wool, 17,850 skins, and ostrich feathers worth £2,500. These quantities do not represent the whole of the produce of the district, as much yet finds its way to the old centres, Richmond and Colesberg.

Ostrich farming is on the increase, as it pays. The profits from this industry have enabled the farmers to *clear* their farms, to form larger camps of stone or wire fencing for their birds, to enlarge their lands, repair their dwellings, and to buy better farming implements than have hitherto been in use, such as winnowing, grinding, shelling machines, &c., besides ploughs with two or more blades or shares.

Ostrich farming has produced a general prosperity in the district.

The telegraph has not yet been established here, but the material for its erection is now on the road, it is said, and we hope before long to be in communication with the remainder of the world by wire.

The Commissioners of the Municipality of Hanover, with some assistance of hard labour prisoners, have made many improvements about the village streets, and water-furrows have been kept in repair and order, and many trees planted in the streets.

The new Gaol is progressing fairly, under the superintendence of Mr. Jardine, of the Public Works Department, and while very much improving the vicinity, the new building promises to keep safely all who may be committed thereto. In many respects the building of the gaol, by an experienced scientific and practical man, has done good, skilled labour being not much known here. It has also proved that any quantity of excellent building stone lies quite near the village, while clay for bricks, of a good sound quality, is abundant and close at hand.

About three years ago, the spreading of measles being feared, it was thought advisable to close the 2nd class school, that had been established in Hanover for seven years, and the resignation then of the master, Mr. Scrutton, seemed a good opportunity. After a while the disease having disappeared, a denominational

school was opened under the auspices of the Rev. A. H. Hofmeyr and the Dutch Reformed Church. A lady teacher was appointed its principal, who for over two years gave much general satisfaction. On that lady leaving, the school was closed. The want of a good school is now seriously felt, and strong growing feelings are in favour of a Government aided school, with a competent teacher.

HERSCHEL.

Drought.—The district for the last three years has suffered much from want of rain. Rains have fallen during the last two months, and an abundant harvest is expected by all those who are fortunate enough to be able to attend to their lands, as ploughing and sowing have been carried on extensively.

Hut-tax and House Duty.—Great difficulty has been experienced in getting the natives to understand why there should be two "taxes" for one thing, and many agree that it would be an improvement to make the two into one. It would lessen the difficulty of receiving and collecting, and be less puzzling to the native mind.

Disarmament.—The proposed disarmament of the Basutos caused a slight sensation in this district. To prevent misunderstanding and mischievous reports taking effect, the Civil Commissioner travelled through the district to explain the law. The natives appeared to take the news very calmly excepting the "Tambookies" on the border of "Tyali's" location in Quthing district, who asked many questions, and evidently did not like the idea.

Rebellion.—On the outbreak of the Basuto rebellion, Tyali gained over a number of the Tambookies of Herschel district to join in the rebellion (the Peace Preservation Act having not yet come into operation in this district), and attacked the magistracy at Quthing; others in the eastern end of the district, Basutos, also went over to the rebels, six headmen of Tambookies joined the rebellion, and one Basuto headman. The Civil Commissioner had a large meeting of headmen on the 22nd September, 1880; and acquainted the people of the state of affairs. The Tambookies were conspicuous by their absence. A large Fingo force was there and then raised on the spot, and marched into the "Blakana," where the Tambookies were in open rebellion, bullying the Fingoes, and preventing them moving to the side of Government, after having attacked Austen's magistracy. This force acted like magic upon the disaffected rebels, in arresting some of the leaders, and restoring order, where all was disorder and uproar. Several fights then occurred in the district, in which several rebels were killed and several loyals. All rebels then were pushed out without delay at the point of the rifle. Several hundred suspected ones were disarmed, and the arms sent to Aliwal North. A large contingent of people of the district was enrolled, and placed along the border, and at different centres, to protect and give confidence. Several small raids by Basuto rebels were made into the district, but without much result owing to the precautionary measures which had been adopted. The Orange River rising, and remaining full for days at a time, caused a lull in military operations on the border, which is the state of affairs at the present time. Most of the loyals who had none of their own, were armed with Government guns, to protect their property and homes.

Starving People.—The Government readily came to the assistance of the natives suffering from scarcity of food by sending up large supplies of mealies to

be sold to such as could afford to pay, at cost price; and to be distributed to the destitute, to prevent starvation. This kindness had a marvellously good effect in steadying the people, many of whom, through the frequent wars and severe droughts, had grown almost disaffected. The Civil Commissioner says that to report further at the present time with a rebellion all along the border, and most of the men under arms at the front, would seem futile. He therefore merely observes that the magistracy is fortified, and all the principal traders still carrying on their business undisturbed, and that up to the present the rebels have suffered much by the rebellion, the loyals have not; and he concludes by expressing a hope that he will be able to give a more peaceful report next year.

BARKLY.

As the district of Barkly was only erected in January last, (1880) this is the first opportunity offered of reporting upon the existing state of things. It will be necessary therefore to go to some length into matters of description to enable the Government to judge of the capabilities, and wants of this hitherto comparatively unknown region. This course has the advantage however of removing the necessity in time to come of any lengthy annual reports, and there will be no need in future to do more than annually record special occurrences.

A reference to the map will shew that the division of Barkly is surrounded on three sides by native territory, so that any disaffection amongst the natives in past times sent its vibrations through this district with ill effect. No sooner had the Gaika, Gcaleka, and Tambookie (Gongobella) outbreak been quelled, than Stockwe, on account of his depredations, had to be drawn from the fastnesses of Maxoxos Hoek on this border; and a feeling of settledness had hardly again obtained when the rebellion of Morosi's tribe in the north took place, which in its turn was followed by the present immense rebellion. These facts and the situation of the district of Barkly, weighed materially against the advancement of its inhabitants. The short periods of peace which intervened between these native troubles, shewed, however, that the unbounded resources of this fertile district are capable of great developement.

The village of Barkly contains sixty-four houses, and 400 inhabitants, and the number of buildings in course of construction is a gratifying proof of the rapid strides the town is making. It is situated 6,100 feet above the sea level, and may be considered the highest town or village in South Africa, its altitude may be more practically illustrated by mentioning that it lies very much higher above the sea level than the top of Ben Nevis, the loftiest peak in the British Islands; this fact bears in its wake the disadvantage that in winter the cold is intense, and the frosts severe. The exceedingly healthy climate and absence of malaria of every kind, however counterbalances these drawbacks.

The district is composed almost entirely of spurs of the Draken's and Wittebergen so that the veldt is what is known amongst farmers as "*Gebroken*" *Ang*: broken veldt, or less literally a hilly country: this partly accounts for the high esteem in which the land is held for stock farms, and it would be almost impossible for sheep and cattle to thrive in winter were the country a flat; as it is the existing kloofs, hoeks and caves form natural sheds and shelter.

Water abounds, in fact on some farms drainage has to be resorted to; and

although a good percentage of the crops is annually destroyed by frost, abundance of grain is raised.

Barkly is particularly famed for its excellent and hardy breed of horses and the authorities after a trial, will find out the advantage of remounting Colonial, Cavalry from these parts.

The absence of roads has proved a serious drawback to this division. It is supposed however, that the boon of its own Divisional Council will shortly be granted to Barkly, in which case there will be a speedy remedy of the evil, and an increase to the public revenue will be effected, by the larger rents which will be obtained for Crown Lands, hitherto comparatively valueless, on account of the extreme difficulty experienced in getting about the country otherwise than on horse back. The construction of a good road from Barkly Pass in the south, *viâ* Moshesh's Pass in the north, to Basutoland will do away with a long felt want, and will materially add to the prosperity of this division in finding a more ready way for the transport of the products of this district, and as a means of opening up trade between Barkly and Basutoland.

The want of telegraphic communication is very seriously felt, not only for mercantile purposes but also in the transaction of public business.

It is a matter of the greatest satisfaction, that there is no vagrancy, and that crime is at a discount in this division. The natives are of an orderly well behaved description, and good feeling exists between masters and servants. This state of things it will be admitted is much to be appreciated, and reflects much credit upon the employers of labour and employés alike, as it is a proof of mutual trust, which cannot but be beneficial to the interests of the inhabitants as a whole.

Notwithstanding that Barkly was menaced on three sides by the rebels, and a Tambookie army even attempted an invasion, the inhabitants have hitherto not only been able to hold their own, but without any aid, they have been the first to clear their border of rebels, and so severely did the enemy suffer at, the hands of the Barkly Forces, that Pomvana's, Nosanna's, Pangella's and Mapassa's locations bordering on this district are clear of rebels, and deserted. One house was fired and one farmer murdered by the rebels at the commencement of the outbreak, but no depredations were committed after the forces took the field on 20th October, 1880. The border has been so effectually guarded, considering the magnitude of the rebellion, that comparatively speaking very little stock has been taken by the enemy, while the total of two sales of stock captured from the rebels amounted up to the 23rd December, 1880, to about £5,500.

CATHCART.

The year 1880 has been a fairly prosperous one. There has been no disease amongst stock. Horsesickness has been quite unknown, and the general health of the people has been good. In no previous year had there been promise of so fair a crop of wheat as in this year, when an unseasonable and heavy frost came and killed almost the entire crop of wheat on the Bontebok Flats. It is pitiable to see the cornlands on the more elevated parts of the Bontebok Flats, near Gaikaskop, with the crop still standing on them, but utterly destroyedby the frost. When stool of wheat is pulled up it is found that the ears have no grain in them, and the stalk in the first joint utterly sapless and dead.

The clip of wool has been very good, and it is gratifying to report that

advantage has been taken of the ease of transport offered by the East London and Queen's Town Railway. No less than 910 bales of wool, representing about 275,000 lbs., besides smaller quantities of mohair, hides, and sheep and goat skins have been carried by rail from Cathcart.

Very abundant rains fell during the month of October, just after the shearing in September, and some few farmers lost sheep from exposure, but the loss was in no case very severe.

All the farms in the late Gaika territory, now portion of this division, sold under Act 14 of 1878, have been occupied, and owners have built houses and kraals. Cattle and sheep thrive well. In consequence of the Tambookie rebellion some farmers in this part of the division have felt insecure, but the stationing of a contingent of fifty burghers on the River Kei, the boundary of this portion of the division has given them a greater sense of security and prevented "trekking," and no loss either in crops or stock is likely to result.

Thefts of stock in small quantities continue to occur throughout the district. The cause of such thefts is "hunger for meat" more than anything else. In one instance a farmer lost, however, some seventy odd sheep by theft. This was a farmer in the late Gaika territory, and the sheep were traced across the Kei and into Tembuland. The spoor was traced to Darala's, and the thieves caught and punished by Mr. Levy. The owner received £20 odd by way of compensation.

During the year there have been two instances of redemption of quitrent under the provisions of the Act, No. 14 of 1878.

A branch of the Standard Bank has been opened during the year, and is fairly well supported.

The benefits offered by the Irrigation Acts 1877 and 1880, have not been taken advantage of. This is to be regretted, as the construction of dams and conservation of water, would greatly enhance the value of many farms in the division for agricultural purposes; and this can in most cases only be carried out by money, assistance, and in every case by scientific and intelligent direction.

The first-class Undenominational Public School, established in 1879, is fairly well attended, though it is to be hoped some portions of the inhabitants of this division will take advantage of the benefits offered by it, in a greater degree in the future, than they have done hitherto.

Crime has decreased, owing to the completion of the line of railway running through the division, and on to Queens' Town, in the early part of the year, and a consequent decrease of the class of people, who used to figure in the criminal record book for small misdemeanours, such as drunkenness, breaches of the peace, and petty assaults.

TARKA.

Notwithstanding the severe losses which some farmers have sustained from the very inclement weather, severe snow, heavy frost and other causes during the last quarter of the past year, yet it is pleasing to report that the division is in a most healthy and thriving condition. Trade has been brisk, particularly during the wool season.

It is estimated that at least 8,000 sheep and goats have succumbed from from some of the causes above enumerated. Enterprising farmers, of whom we

have a goodly number and most in affluent circumstances, having taken the precaution of erecting proper sheds, have lost every little stock. The yield of cereals in this division would have been enormous, had it not been that in some parts, particularly on the Winterberg, the crops have been entirely destroyed by severe late frosts.

Horses, cattle, sheep, goats (angora and boer) and ostriches thrive well in this division ; and if a census were to be now taken it would be ascertained that in all respects this division has during the last five years made rapid strides.

Farming is one of the most lucrative pursuits at present to be undertaken. A great many substantial buildings have been erected in the town and district. The beautiful and artistic Dutch Reformed Church at Tarkastad, constructed according to designs of Sydney Stent, Esq., C. E. and which cost about £12,000 was opened for public worship on the 12th February last.

The Cape of Good Hope Bank opened a branch here in April last. From the statements of the branches at Tarkastad of the Bank of Africa (limited) and the Cape of Good Hope Bank (limited) just published for the half-year ended 31st December, 1880, it will be seen that these institutions are well supported and are doing healthy businesses.

The Government Savings Bank continues to receive fair support.

The Public Library also receives its share of support. This institution has lately received the sum of £100 as a bequest from the late Honourable W. Porter C. M. G. late Attorney-General of the Colony. With this noble bequest and the liberal support of the Government "Tarkastad Library" ought shortly to vie with those of older towns.

The revenue and expenditure of the Civil Commissioner's department during the year, amounted to, viz.:—

Revenue £6,405 0s. 0d. ; Expenditure £2,462 5s. 11d.

Stock-stealing has much decreased ; this is mainly attributable to the vigilance of the Divisional Police, and the energies displayed by the Inspector of native locations. Delinquents for stock-stealing are invariably severely punished and compelled to make compensation to the owner.

The magistrate has disposed of 282 criminal cases, and 176 civil cases.

Serious crimes are not frequently perpetrated. Only three cases were brought before the Circuit Court, viz. :—two for rape and one for cattle stealing.

During the Gcaleka war in 1877, and the Gaika rebellion in 1878 this district contributed 118 volunteers and 355 burghers ; and now the B Troop, Cape Yeomanry under Captain H. Everitt, M.L.A., is serving in Basutoland ; and 100 Tarka Burghers under Field-Captain S. Hesselman, are serving in the Transkei.

The second class undenominational boys' school does not receive that support which the wealth and importance of the division demand. Boys are as a rule removed from school when they scarcely attained the age of sixteen years.

A want long felt has now been supplied by the establishment of a first-class undenominational girls' school and a boarding department in connection with such school. The committee of management have been very fortunate in securing two educated and accomplished ladies, as lady principal and assistant.

The following letters past through the Post Office at Tarkastad.

Forwarded.—Letters, 19,381 ; newspapers, 7,491 ; books, 1244 ; Received letters, 19,337 ; newspapers, 19,767 ; books, 3,149.

The following is the report of the District Surgeon, John Fergus, M.D., as regards the state of health of the inhabitants.

During the twelve months ending 31st December, 1880, the health of the inhabitants of the Tarka district has been remarkably good; better indeed than it has been for several years.

There have been none of the usual epidemics of scarlatina and typhoid fever, which were so prevalent during the previous two years. There have also been no cases of diphtheria.

There were only three cases of cramp and one of scarlatina (sporadic), and three of typhoid fever (also sporadic), during the twelve months.

Whooping cough was somewhat prevalent during the winter months.

The mortality from infantile diseases has been remarkably small.

This immunity from the usual diseases prevalent, I attribute chiefly to the very heavy rainfall and also partly to the low temperature, which we have enjoyed during the last year; these two agents preventing the fructification of the germs of epidemic disease.

The number of persons suffering from chest affections has been unusually small.

KING WILLIAM'S TOWN.

A full report having been made to the Honourable the Secretary for Native Affairs on native matters in this divison nothing need be said on this subject here.

So far as can be ascertained the only way in which the farmers have suffered during the past year has been through thefts of stock. The wheat crop has been an indifferent one, but in every other respect it is believed the farmers have done well. Ostrich farming is on the increase with very favourable results, and there has been no disease in sheep or cattle.

From the 1st January, 1880, Komgha and Stutterheim were cut off from this division for fiscal purposes, and it is now in contemplation to separate them for Divisional Council purposes as well.

The public health has been good.

Local institutions are in a flourishing state. There has been a great improvement in the Botanic Gardens, and the committee of the Public Library have added many useful books to their collection.

The Borough Council have in contemplation a large scheme for securing to the town a more abundant and regular supply of water from the Buffalo River.

Landed property in the town and district has decreased in value, owing probably to wars and rumours of war, and to decrease of trade.

The Divisional Council has kept the existing lines of road in very fair order, but little has been done towards the construction of new roads.

The division has yielded a very fair revenue amounting to £30,772, of which a considerable sum is arrear revenue for past years. There are large arrears of house-duty still outstanding. The valuation roll was made when this division was in a very disturbed condition and a great many whose names appear therein, cannot now be traced nor their huts found.

Heavy losses have been incurred by merchants and others through the destruction of property in the Transkei caused by the Tambookie and Pondomise outbreak.

Towards the close of the year abundant rains have fallen, and the natives have cultivated much more largely than for many years past. There is therefore a prospect of a good harvest of grain.

No large sales of Crown Land have taken place during the year. It is desirable that as much land in this division as possible should be reserved for immigrants, and occupied by them without unnecessary delay.

The records of the magistrate's court show no decrease in the amount of crime detected, but owing to the inefficiency of police arrangements in the country, it is feared that no large proportion of the crime actually committed is reported.

KOMGHA.

During the past year this district has been created a division for fiscal purposes, having previously been a part of the King William's Town, and East London divisions.

The district comprises six field-cornetcies, numbered 1 to 6.

A Divisional Council has not yet been established, and the control of roads and rates still remains with the Divisional Councils of the above divisions.

Favourable rains have fallen since the end of October, and excellent grain crops are anticipated.

Very fair wool clips have been obtained, and sheep are doing remarkably well since the farms had a rest during the war of 1877-'78.

Ostrich-farming has been introduced recently, and promises to be a success.

Cattle in particular, throughout the district thrive well, and the coastlands, are specially adapted for winter pasturage.

Stock-thefts, are onthe decrease, and very few cases are now reported.

The natives are under proper supervision, hence the few thefts committed.

The general state of the district is considered satisfactory.

There is a public school and library, both aided by Government, and these institutions are progressing favourably.

EAST LONDON.

The want of food has been largely felt in this division lately, especially amongst the natives, but fine rains have fallen latterly and there is every prospect of plentiful crops of mealies, &c. The natives will not as a rule go out to service, and the result is that stock stealing and other thefts are carried on to a serious extent by them. It is to be regretted that the Divisional Council has refused to vote the necessary money to raise a Police Force under the provisions of Act No. 8 of 1873. Such a force is indispensable for bringing the offenders to justice. The farmers in this division appear to be strongly opposed to a force under the Act, involving as it does an additional tax upon their properties, and yet they are loud in their complaints about the present state of things. This district has a large native population requiring police supervision.

The prospects of the town and division are good. The harbour appears to be shewing decided signs of improvement, and ships are now speedily attended to. It can fairly be assumed that the East London Harbour will ere long become a decided success. Whilst the court house and public offices are still on the west bank of the Buffalo, the whole of the business of place is transacted on the east bank. The magistrate holds a periodical court on that side of the river every

Tuesday and Friday. It is the intention of the Government to provide the necessary accommodation there for the magistrate and his establishment, as speedily as possible, and then the seat of magistracy will be transferred to that side.

The criminal record book shows 450 cases in 1880, against 433 in 1879. This increase of crime may partly be attributed to the scarcity of food and to the absence of Police supervision.

KIMBERLEY.

The division of Kimberley is that portion of the late province of Griqualand West enclosed by the Vaal River, Modder or Reit River, and Free State Boundary. The area of the division is about 500,000 morgen divided into about 150 farms, most of these farms are held by Dutch Boers, but there are a few English and Scotch farmers scattered throughout the division.

Owing to the scarcity of water, to the poverty of the soil, and to the elevation, about 4,200 feet above the sea, the district is ill adapted for agriculture, and depends for its supplies of grain and other vegetable produce on the Transvaal and on Basutoland. A few farmers cultivate small gardens and supply the Kimberley and Du Toit's Pan markets with vegetables and fruit. Kimberley is peculiarly suited to stock breeding; and cattle, sheep and horses are bred in considerable numbers.

The improvements on the farms are slow and not very marked. The advantages afforded by such a large market as that of Kimberley, tend to material improvement. Many of the farmers are in easy circumstances and have built substantial and comfortable homesteads and farm buildings.

The wealth of Kimberley consists in its diamond mines, the value of which is not over estimated at nine millions sterling.

Steampower has almost superseded manual labour in some of the mining operations; but the work has so much increased that the demand for native labour is as great as ever, and there is increasing demand for mechanics and skilled labourers. A large number of immigrants of this class to the Fields would find employment and obtain very high wages.

During the past year, many claimholders finding the cost of mining operations too much for private enterprize, combined and formed Joint Stock Companies; these companies are being worked by the former claimholders, who have invested a great part of their money therein. The result of the formation of these companies is a considerable influx of foreign capital.

The diamond mines give work to a large population, both European and Native. They have given rise to numerous industries, and are rapidly developing the resources of this part of the Colony, and Kimberley now is one of the largest centres of trade for the interior. Not only is steam power largely employed in the mining operations, but several large steam mills and manufactories and other industries to meet the requirements of miners and others have been established in the town of Kimberley.

Kimberley was formed into a municipality at the beginning of 1878. The the municipal commissioners have to contend with difficulties such as the absence of commonage, and other ground. The municipality is wholly dependent for its revenue on rates, market dues, tolls, and some local taxes ceded by the late Government.

The water supply of the town is very defective and is obtained from wells. The streets are easily cut up by traffic and the cost of metal or good material for their repair is enormous. Notwithstanding these various drawbacks, there is a marked improvement in the town since a municipality was called into being, and the sanitary arrangements although still very defective are very much improved A company has lately been formed to bring the water of the Vaal River to Kimberley by means of pipes or canals, and the work will probably be completed in two or three years time.

Owing to the energy of the various religious denominations in Kimberley, several good schools have been established and are now flourishing. No Divisional Council has as yet been elected for Kimberley and the roads throughout the division have in consequence been much neglected, the nature of the soil is fortunately such as to allow of fair roads with little making or repairs, being hard and gravelly, except in the neighbourhood of the rivers. The main road from Kimberley to Hope Town which for the first thirty miles is the main road to all parts of the Colony and to the Free State, and which owing to the enormous traffic is very much cut up, requires constant supervision and could be kept in repair at a very small cost, such supervision is however impracticable without a Divisional Council.

The traffic to and from the Colony is much hindered owing to there being no bridge across the Modder River where it is crossed by the main road, the river is often impassable for days and could be bridged at comparatively small cost.

DU TOIT'S PAN (DIVISION OF KIMBERLEY).

The past year may be regarded as one of unusual activity and prosperity for this place.

Diamonds were first discovered it Du Toit's Pan in April, 1870, and the mines of Du Toit's Pan and Bultfontein were opened about the same time.

Du Toit's Pan or Dorstfontein which at first was owned by Mr. van Wyk subsequently passed into the hands of "the London and South African Exploration Company" the present proprietors.

The extent of the mine is twenty-three acres, it contains 1,650 claims of thirty feet square each, and is in extent about four times as large as Kimberley mine.

In the early days of the digging a large population gathered on the farm, and worked with more or less success to a depth of from six to twenty feet, but dry sorting was then the rule and there being no proper supervision the diggers sorted the diamondiferous ground within the mine, the consequence being that vast mounds of debris were accumulated on the claims. This occurred to such an extent that working was practically stopped and the mine in consequence was almost deserted. Claims could be had for the mere asking, or in other words applying to the registrar.

In the year 1874 a complete revolution took place by the introduction of water in washing the soil by means of rotary washing machines, and latterly the introduction of steam power in removing the soil from the mine to depositing sites on the outside.

On account of the accumulation of debris in the Du Toit's Pan mine, claims

remained at a low price, until the last few years, when several enterprizing individuals at great labour and cost cleared several blocks of the debris by means of machinery, and getting access to the virgin ground found that the latter paid a good profit on the outlay.

The formation of companies in the Kimberley mine during the last year or two induced several of the capitalists there to invest in Du Toit's Pan and the result has far exceeded their expectations. At a depth of say ninety feet what is called the *blue* ground is reached, and this ground yields 20s. per load of sixteen cubic feet. It is calculated that ground paying this return is worth £5,000 per claim and ground which has reached the blue in what is called Fry's Gully is now of that value, in fact owners will not sell at that price, the blue has also been reached in Robinson' Gully. The uncertainty of its tenure however places the Du Toit's Pan mine at a disadvantage. Following an attempt to raise the price of the claim licence, an arrangement has recently been made whereby the diggers pay to the proprietor of the mine a licence fee at the rate of £18 per annum per claim including one acre of ground for a depositing site.

The value of the mine may be roughly put down at £1,500,000, which will probably be largely increased when all the debris is removed and when the claims are all worked down to a payable depth.

The yield of diamonds cannot be short of £500,000 per annum in Du Toit's Pan and Bultfontein mines which will probably be augmented when larger machinery is put down and when a better water supply is procured ; a company has been formed in London to bring water from the Vaal River, and it is estimated that within two years water will be laid on from that source to the different mines.

The miners employ at present about 3,000 natives for Du Toit's Pan and about 2,000 for Bultfontein. Their wages amount to 25s. a week including food or £325,000 per annum. This money is paid in gold weekly and a large proportion of it is taken to the far interior to the different tribes that supply labour to these fields.

Diamond stealing is still carried on to a very great extent in Du Toit's Pan and although the crime of illicit diamond buying is punished very severely still the profits are so obviously large that men continue to run the risk.

BARKLY, GRIQUALAND WEST.

The year 1880 in this district has been a fairly prosperous one, title deeds to many farms have been released during the year, and farmers have come in to the district to purchase or hire land on which to settle and carry on stock and agricultural pursuits.

Most of the farms owned by Europeans have now cultivated lands, without which crops would be uncertain, the country being subject to severe droughts.

The yield in oathay and grain during the present year is greatly in excess of any preceding one.

This district is essentially fitted for cattle farming, and all the land lying adjacent to Hart's River from Delports Hope away to Bank Drift is undeniably capital sheep veldt.

Merino sheep are being introduced, taking in great measure the place of the

long tailed. Ostriches would no doubt thrive well here, this being the natural home of that bird in its wild state.

The natives (who live mostly on the different locations set apart for their use), seem contended and happy, and as a rule are tolerably well off, each kraal or werf having its own cattle, sheep and goats, as well as horses. The natives plough considerably and in good seasons realize fair crops.

One of their chief industries at present is wood-riding, which if properly and judiciously controlled, should bring in a considerable revenue to Government.

The Batlapins on the whole are an abstemious people, the Griquas and the Korannas are just the reverse.

Theft especially in the district has decreased much during the last few months, chiefly in consequence of the action taken by the late Government in placing a few Border Police at different points, by whom the entire district is well and continually patrolled.

Newland's Mine.—A dry digging situate on one of Mr. G. Patons farms on the Hart's River, is distant from Barkly about twenty miles, and consists of so far as at present ascertained some sixteen claims, which appear to be surrounded on all sides by a cake of hard sandstone. A few shafts have been sunk and many small diamonds found.

The prospectus of a company for working this mine with the latest improved machinery, is now before the public, and before long Newlands will be thoroughly tested.

Claims in this mine have changed hands at £57 10s.

Newlands on account of the limited number of its claims is only adapted for a company, and unworkable by individual diggers.

The River Diggings.—The chief diggings at present worked along the Vaal River are Pniel, Bad Hope, Cawood's Hope, Gong Gong, Waldeck's Plant, Keiskamma, Niekerks, Blue Jacket, Winter's Rush, Larkin's and Delport's Hope.

These diggings give employment to from 250 to 300 European and from forty to fifty Native diggers, who labour with varying fortune, some finding well and some reduced to their last sixpence. The better-to-do digger employs when obtainable native labour, the poorer digger labours alone. Diggers as a rule are reticent as to their finds, but that many find, and find well is beyond doubt.

Working is still carried on in primitive style, the diamondiferous soil having been picked out is first "babied" and then "cradled." Diamonds found on the river are considered to be of better quality and more valuable than the diamonds unearthed at the dry mines.

The diggers mostly live in tents or wattle-and-daub houses, some few have neat iron houses and lately several substantial brick houses have been erected. The three principal places on the river are Gong Gong, Waldeck's Plant and Niekerk's Rush.

Gong Gong distant from Barkly eight or nine miles, possesses a general store, and a butcher's shop.

Waldeck's Plant is about nine miles from Barkly and possesses a school, has a large iron building used for divine service, has two general stores, a roadside inn, a bootmaker's establishment and butcher and baker's shop.

Niekerks Rush distant about eleven miles from Barkly, has two roadside inns and general stores, a butcher's shop, and a baker's shop.

During the present year, 1880 to date, the revenue collected from the various

river diggings is over £2,000 (two thousand pounds), and considerably in excess of that collected in any former year.

As the dry mines of Kimberley, De Beers, Du Toit's Pan and Bultfontein are now chiefly worked by companies, interest has of late been awakened towards the River diggings, and the problem of how to work river soil in the cheapest and most expeditious manner is engaging the attention of many, and before long diamond searching on the river will cease to be the lottery that it is at present. In proportion to the amount of work done, so will the amount of the finds be, and this being the case, of course a fixed and populous community will be the result.

HERBERT, GRIQUALAND WEST.

The condition of the district during the past year cannot be said to have been favourable, no rain worth mentioning fell, until a few weeks ago, since September 1879, and so parched was the ground, that even the heavy showers with which the country was then visited, seemed to have but a transient effect.

Stock both young and old, except ostriches have suffered much. Ostriches wild and tame, appear to flourish. No failures among ostrich farmers have been heard of.

There is no cultivation to speak of at present in the district: the farmers are essentially stock farmers, there are but few gardens, and there is but little fruit, the absence of springs and the dependence of farmers on dams, often carelessly constructed is the cause of this.

Diamond digging has begun in the northern portion of the district, along the Riet River, and land in that neigbourhood has changed hands at high prices, but there has not yet been much result. The health of the people generally has been seriously affected by the drought, fever and throat disorders as well as affections of the stomach and liver have been very prevalent, and many deaths, especially among children, have occurred from diphtheria.

There is but little serious crime, out of 100 cases entered to date in the Criminal Record Book, but four are for stock-stealing, the remainder being contraventions of the Masters and Servants Act and the Pass Act, and ordinary theft.

The Main Salt Pan of the district at Wiltshire has produced by evaporation about 20,000 muids of salt of a quality only equalled by that of Zwaartkop's River. The natives are peaceable and quite, they only grumbled that they did not receive payment for their guns. The roads are in a bad state, but nothing can be done by the Divisional Council, until the main and divisional roads are proclaimed. Of religious and educational bodies there are none. The Dutch inhabitants attend the churches of Hope Town and Jacobsdal. The English go nowhere. Provisions have been throughout the year scarce and dear, meal and mealies have varied from 25s. to £4 12s. 6d. per muid of 200 lbs., but an average price has been about £2. 15s. per muid.

HAY, GRIQUALAND WEST.

The general condition of the district is much improved, owing principally to the damage and loss caused to tradespeople and farmers by the rebellion of the Griquas, being mostly repaired. The first part of the year was tryingto

stock of all kinds in consequence of the prolonged drought, but the splendid rains which have lately fallen in most of the districts have now given abundant feed and water. There is evidently a prosperous future in store for the district, and as soon as the Government see their way towards selling the farms, twice advertised and as often withdrawn, there will be a large influx of farmers, who have a great partiality for the district, as it is exceptionally healthy for all kinds of stock, and on most of the farms water can be opened up by a comparatively small outlay of capital and labour. The district is proved to be admirably adapted to ostrich farming, one recently started ostrich farm, belonging to the Messrs. Attwell, showing every sign of being a marked success. As a sign that the prospects of the district are looked upon as healthy, there have been three large new stores erected during the year in Griquatown, and should the present scheme of obtaining an increased supply of water for the town prove successful, there is little doubt but that Griquatown will be one of the healthiest and most prosperous townships in South Africa. The soil all round is of great depth and capable of growing almost anything, the only drawback being the present limited supply of water. The natives in the district are generally quiet and peaceable, but as a rule disinclined to work, and prefer struggling on with the miserable remains of the stock left them by the late war, to useful employment, but the "Vagrancy Act," judiciously managed, will doubtless improve this state of affairs in time. There are no churches or schools of any denomination in the district, and with the exception of services conducted in the native language by a native lay reader at Griquatown, under the auspices of the "London Missionary Society" and "Church of England," prayers conducted in the court-house at Griquatown by the Civil Commissioner, there is a total absence of all religious instruction. The members of the "Dutch Reformed Church" are shortly intending to establish a place of worship in Griquatown.

DIVISIONS.	AVERAGE RATES OF WAGES.	STATE AND TENDENCY OF DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF LABOUR MARKET.	PRICES OF PROVISIONS AND CLOTHING.
Simon's Town ..	Average wages paid to farm servants vary from 15s. to 30s. per mensem, including board and lodging.	Market indifferently supplied with labour.	Provisions (except meat) moderately cheap. Fish abundant. Ready made clothing to be had at reasonable rates.
Namaqualand ..	Miners are generally remunerated according to measurement of ore quarried. Coloured labourers at piecework readily earn 3s. to 4s. a day. Farm servants receive 6s. to 10s. a month, with food for themselves and families.	.. ..	Good beef and mutton sold at 4½d. to 5d. a lb. Clothing, considering the quality, is not cheap.
Carnarvon	European domestic servants receive £40 per annum, with board and lodging. For native servants the wages are—£1 for male domestics and 15s. for female ditto per month, with board and lodging. In the country, domestic servants are generally found to be apprenticed, and are paid according to age. Farm servants (natives) have a sheep or goat per month, with food, coffee, &c.; the families of the servants are maintained by the employer.	.. ..	Exceptionally high, owing to difficulty of obtaining supplies, which come from Port Elizabeth to Aberdeen Road Station, 200 miles distant.
Beaufort West ..	Domestic servants receive, in town, males, 25s. and females 20s., in the country, males, 20s. and females, 12s, with board and lodging; shepherds from 10s. to 15s. per mensem, four sheep or goats, 2 buckets meal, 1 lb. tobacco, and 1 pair veldschoens.	Domestic servants, both European and native, very scarce. Native servants more inclined to take daily labour in or near town. Tradesmen of almost every class would find ready employment here.	Prices of provisions continue high, notwithstanding opening of railway to Beaufort.
Prince Albert ..	.. ..	Pretty well supplied, but all kinds of tradesmen would find ready employment.	
Robertson	Wages vary according to nature of work required to be performed; are highest during harvest and vintage times.	Poorly supplied in comparison with demand.	Somewhat higher than last year (1879).
Swellendam	Average rate of wages paid to urban and rural servants is 15s. a month, with food.	Very indifferently supplied: good domestic servants would find ready employment.	Clothing retailed at moderate rates.
Riversdale	2s. 6d. per diem is about the average rate of wages.	A want of labourers among the farming community.	Prices are high; meat is 7d. per lb.
Mossel Bay	Average rate is—in town, 4s. a day; in country, £1 per month.	Fairly well supplied.	Prices are about 50 per cent higher than in Cape Town.
George	Labourers earn from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. a day without food, and 1s. to 2s. with food.	Great demand for good labour.	Provisions have risen in price during last six months. Clothing is moderate in price.

Uniondale	Domestic servants receive from 10s. to 15s. per month.	Good farm labourers much wanted.	
Knysna	.. ..	Labourers appear scarce.	Prices high, owing to supply of labourers being almost wholly absorbed by timber trade.
Jansenville	Farm servants sometimes paid in stock. Domestic servants are paid as follows :—males, 10s. to 15s. ; females, 7s. 6d. to 15s. per month.	Good demand for tradesmen, especially shoemakers and tailors.	Breadstuffs and provisions somewhat cheaper than in 1879. Clothing moderate.
Peddie	Native servants receive from 10s. to 20s. a month and their food. Europeans seldom employed as labourers here.	It is extremely difficult to procure mediocre servants in any branch.	Cattle thrive well and beef is reasonable in price ; sheep do not answer, yet mutton is hardly more expensive than in the districts considered as sheep-runs.
Victoria East.. ..	Agricultural labour is much cheaper than urban.	Fairly well supplied, there being a large number of natives in the division.	Very moderate.
Middelburg	.. ..	Still a want of labourers. Skilled hands to work with machinery, and mechanics to repair the same, are much required. Good domestic servants are very scarce.	There has been a good harvest and breadstuffs will be comparatively cheap. Meat increasing in price.
Graaff-Reinet .	Wages have ruled very high.	.. ..	Owing to competition better qualities of clothing can be obtained at more reasonable rates than previously.
Murraysburg . ..	Farm servants are usually paid in stock.	Indifferently supplied : steady men readily obtain work.	Provisions cheaper than in 1879.
Hope Town	About 15s. a month are paid to servants out of town, but remuneration is by stock.	Very unsatisfactory ; no tailors or shoemakers.	In some cases higher than at the Diamond fields.
Herschel	.. ..	Much labour is supplied to surrounding districts.	Natives readily adopt European clothing.
Cathcart	Urban. Average rates are as follows—males £1, females 15s. per mensem, with board and lodging. Rural—farmers usually hire a native with his family, and pay the man at the rate of 10s. a month with food and lodging ; the man would be employed as shepherd, &c., and the woman in the kitchen. Special men are employed for shearing and reaping : reapers receive 1s. 6d. a day and food, and shearers get 6s. per 100 sheep and food.	No great difficulty experienced in procuring servants.	Imported provisions are cheaper than formerly ; colonial produce remains steady in price ; clothing cheaper.
Stutterheim	.. ..	Supply has been greater than demand owing to scarcity of food.	
East London	Artizans receive from 8s. to 15s. a day : native labourers, in town, 2s. 6d. a day without food, in country, 6s. to 15s. per month with meal or mealies and sour milk.	Artizans scarce : native labourers plentiful : good domestic servants would find ready employment.	

DIVISIONS.	AVERAGE RATES OF WAGES.	STATE AND TENDENCY OF DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF LABOUR MARKET.	PRICES OF PROVISIONS AND CLOTHING.
Herbert (G.W.) ..	Natives are paid at the rate of 10s. a month with food and lodging, and often clothing. Europeans remunerated by job or by piecework.	Increasing demand for European labour for housebuilding. Supply of native farm labour not equal to demand.	Considering distance from mercantile centres, prices of clothing and imported provisions are moderate.
Barkly (Klipdrift) ..	For diamond digging on the river the rate of wages rule from 10s. to 12s. 6d. with, and from 15s. to 17s. 6d. without food, per week.	Town of Barkly and river diggings are at present (December, 1880) but indifferently supplied. Hundreds of natives are now engaged in wood-riding.	Breadstuffs are very dear at present.
Hay (G. W.) ..	Outdoor servants get 10s. a month with food, and general ditto, £4 per month for males, and 2s. a day for females, white artizans work by the piece or job, at about £1 per day.	Labour extremely scarce, white labour except in the way of contracts, is unobtainable. Natives generally disinclined to hire members of their families for any length of time.	Everything, except meat and occasionally vegetables, is so entirely dependent upon transport for its price that no fixed rate can be given. Meat as a rule plentiful and fairly cheap.

Beaufort West ..	A steam saw-mill, four steam pumps, a reaping machine, and two triple furrow ploughs have been introduced during the year, also a large quantity of wire-fencing. Several farmers have fenced in portions of their farms for ostrich camps One farmer has enclosed upwards of 8,000 morgen with wire-fencing. Wells for watering stock, &c., have been sunk on many farms in the district, and the water has proved more wholesome and refreshing than that from shallow dams A farmer has introduced 100 iron hurdles for kraaling sheep, &c., on his cultivated lands for the purpose of manure, thus saving a deal of labour	None.	None.
Bredasdorp.. ..	A steam-mill of 6 horse power has been introduced during the year, supplying a want which for years has been seriously felt in the district There has been a steady increase in the number of reaping and threshing machines, a great improvement in the quality and description of the best wrought iron English made ploughs in use throughout the division, as well as harrows, and other agricultural implements, and a growing conviction on the part of the farmers generally of the importance of such substitutes for manual labour	None	None
Calvinia . ..	A great many pumps of superior quality have been imported during the past year. Mr. M van Dyk of this village has a steam pump which throws up a large stream of water out of a well, and by means of which he has a large extent of ground under cultivatien.	None.	Most of the Crown lands being leased, very little squatting is now going on.
Carnarvon	None	None.	Good many squatters still in the northern parts of this division, and owing to the scarcity of water great difficulty is experienced in putting the Act in force especially about the "Kaaing Veld."
Cathcart	Several reaping machines, one steam threshing machine, and several three furrowed and other ploughs have been introduced.	The introduction of agricultural machinery and implements gradually increasing	No squatting on Crown lands.

DIVISIONS.	IMPROVEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL PURSUITS AND MANUFACTURES.	PROGRESS OF ANY IMPROVEMENTS PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED.	REMARKS ON SQUATTING.
Colesberg	The farmers are making little use of the improved machinery now imported for the saving of labour. Strides are being made in the art of tilling the soil, as also in the improved flour-mills.	The improvement seems pretty general in the mode of agriculture.	The Vagrant Act is having a beneficial effect in the prevention of squatting, and the number of squatters is very much reduced since the taking effect of the Act.
Cradock	None.	None.	No squatting allowed in this district.
East London ..	Steam is now beginning to be largely used in sawing, joining, and brickmaking. No improvements can be noted in agricultural or pastoral pursuits; these are in anything but a satisfactory state as regards stock-rearing and corn-growing.	The progress in boat building is most satisfactory, lighters now being ordered from Port Elizabeth to be constructed here.	The squatting system is becoming a serious evil in this district. It is a very convenient arrangement for the owner of the land who gets his ploughing and sowing done on the halves, but to the neighbours it is a source of great annoyance.
Fort Beaufort ..	Another steam pump for irrigation purposes has been erected on the banks of the Koonap. This now makes three pumps of this nature introduced into this district.	The steam pumps have been found of great advantage during the drought.	The Native Locations Act is strictly enforced, but many farmers take advantage of the clause in the Act which allow five huts on the square mile without supervision, six huts only constituting a location.
Fraserburg.. ..	This being essentially a grazing country but few efforts have been made to introduce mechanical appliances for saving labour. A few steam, horse, and windmill pumps have, however, been brought into use during the year, as well as a few threshing machines. Several leadings from the rivers for the purpose of irrigation have been made.	The construction of dams is steadily increasing, and a large number of ostrich camps have been made during the year. Great attention is being paid to ostrich farming.	No squatting is allowed in this district.
George	Reaping and threshing machines have been introduced, and are becoming in pretty general use.	Fencing is still going on in the district to a great extent. Not only is the larger portion of the agricultural land being fenced in, but large enclosures are made for ostriches and other stock. Some farmers have enclosed their whole farms. Dams and other irrigation works are progressing although not so fast as the necessities of the district require.	Squatting is still going on, but not to such an extent as in former years.

Graaff-Reinet ..	.. ..	Howard's reaping machines and three furrow ploughs are becoming generally used by the farmers, as they effect a great saving of labour.	Very little.
Hanover	.. ..	.. ..	Hardly any squatting in the district; only a few cases in the Native Location in the municipality.
Hay..	None.	In 1880 a steam flour-mill was started. It is well patronised by the inhabitants of the division.	Squatting prevails to a very great extent throughout the division, but more especially along the Vaal and Orange Rivers and in the well wooded parts of unappropriated Crown lands.
Herschel	No improvements introduced this year. The only mechanical appliances in use are the plough, pick, and axe.	None.	There is no squatting. The whole district is a native reserve on which the natives are allowed to settle free.
Herbert	One or two pumps have been introduced.	Dam-making and tree-planting progressing.	Owing to strict carrying out of Pass Laws there is no vagrancy whatever. Every Dutch farmer has relations squatting on his farm, but they appear to do a certain amount of work.
Hope Town ..	Steam pump costing £80.	Orange River Bridge nearly completed will probably be open for traffic in March next.	Complaints are frequently made of farmers allowing natives to live upon their farms with their families and who occasionally work for them. They do not appear to have sufficient means of subsistence, and surrounding farmers constantly lose stock. Without a divisional police force these natives cannot be watched.
Humansdorp ..	Reaping and threshing machines and wire fencing used to save labour.		
Knysna	Several reaping and threshing machines have been used for two or three years back.	The steam mills of Messrs. Wilson and Glynn, the Knysna Steam Saw Mill Co., & G. Wilson are doing good work. Three other steam mills are in course of erection. Constant employment will thus be found for about fifty mechanics.	Large amount of squatting exists. The squatters, as a rule, are woodcutters employed in the Crown forests. It has been proposed to remedy this evil by establishing locations.
Komgha	.. ..	.. ..	Squatting is not allowed in the division, and the Acts referring thereto have been strictly carried out.
Malmesbury ..	The reaping and threshing machines introduced, as already reported, are much in favour with agriculturists. No improvements introduced during 1881.	.. ..	No squatting allowed.

DIVISIONS.	IMPROVEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL PURSUITS AND MANUFACTURES.	PROGRESS OF ANY IMPROVEMENTS PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED.	REMARKS ON SQUATTING.
Middelburg ..	The application of machinery to farming in this division has been partly restricted by the difficulty in obtaining skilled labour in the use of the same and in repairing damages. The soil is not yet so carefully prepared as to use machines to advantage. This is the work of time and suitable immigration.	Fountains are still being opened and dams made. Fencing continues notwithstanding the depression in ostriches, but not to the same extent as last year before the crisis. The stimulus to improvement caused by ostrich farming is not evanescent. Farmers are recognising that there is a reward in all improvement.	Squatting unknown for the last half-a-dozen years.
Murraysburg ..	Reaping machines, threshing machines, and triple furrow ploughs continue to be introduced.	Continued attention to fencing. Nearly every farm has enclosures for ostriches and other stock.	No squatting.
Oudtshoorn.. ..	Three horse saw-mills and one steam-mill (for grinding corn) have been introduced.	One steam saw-mill imported last year answers admirably and saves a great deal of manual labour.	There is no squatting on Crown or other lands in this division.
Paarl	I. The machinery in connection with the Steam Cart and Wagon Manufactory is now complete and in full working order. II. Rails have been laid from the Paarl Railway Station to the woolwashing establishment of Messrs. Fraser & Mossop.	New pipes have been put down from the reservoir through the town, thus affording the inhabitants a plentiful supply of water for domestic and other purposes.	None.
Peddie	A few threshing machines and mealie shellers have been introduced during the year.	.. ..	There is a good deal of squatting on the Gwanga and military reserves by persons taking out grazing licenses.
Piquetberg.. ..	.. ..	Many double and three furrow ploughs have been introduced, as well as threshing and reaping machines.	There are no squatters.
Prince Albert ..	.. ..	.. ..	No squatting reported in this district.

Queen's Town ..	Some machinery has been introduced, such as pumps for lifting water out of the vlei, and reaping machines.	None to any extent, with the exception of a large reservoir that is being constructed.	Everything is being done by civil commissioner to prevent squatting, but in so large a district, with so large a number of natives, it is found difficult to check the same.
Riversdale	No special improvement.	.. ..	There is no squatting.
Robertson	Very few, if any. A few wine presses have been introduced during the year.	.. ..	There is no squatting in this division.
Simon's Town ..	A brick machine, with two men's labour, can turn out 4,000 moulded bricks per day.	The patent slip has been entirely relaid with teakwood. The hard roads over the beaches are in excellent order.	None.
Somerset East ..	A large steam pump has been erected lately in the Little Fish River at a cost of £350, and a large area of ground is now under cultivation and of considerable value.	Reaping machines are being used, and fencing still continues. A great many Angora rams have been introduced.	There is no squatting in this district.
Stellenbosch ..	Reaping machines and "Ostrich Incubators" in increased use.	.. ..	No squatting allowed in this division.
Willowmore ..	One horse-power threshing machine with corn mill attached, two steam engines, one steam pump, and one windmill pump introduced.	Pumps fixed last year for irrigation purposes answer admirably.	No squatting in this division.
Wodehouse	Many improvements in agriculture, owing to introduction of machinery. The construction of dams a great success, many are of great size, and some are used for irrigation purposes.	Progress, owing to machinery, is very marked. Grain, forage, &c., can now be procured in great quantities, at a reasonable price.	
Worcester	None.	None.	There is little squatting upon vacant Government land in the Roggeveld.
Barkly (G.W.)		.. ..	Squatting has been stopped as far as possible, owing to the fact that the squatters cut down and destroy the wood on Crown lands, which deteriorate the value of farms.
Kokstad (G.E.) ..	One steam saw-mill was erected, but scarcity of fuel caused the proprietor to abandon the engine, and now the saw is propelled by water with apparently a good result.	Building has increased, and numerous stores and dwelling houses have been erected.	Squatting is not more prevalent than before, but now that active hostilities are over, rebels in very small parties return and take shelter amongst those who did not actually rebel.

DIVISIONS.	IMPROVEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL PURSUITS AND MANUFACTURES.	PROGRESS OF ANY IMPROVEMENTS PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED.	REMARKS ON SQUATTING.
Mount Frere (G.E.)	The Bacas have bought ploughs largely. There is also a great demand for wagons	.. ..	The term squatting can hardly be applied to this district, which seems to belong to the Bacas as a tribe There are no white squatters. A few Pondomise refugees may be considered as squatters, but they will be located shortly.
Stutterheim ..	Reaping and threshing machines have been introduced, and in one case particularly a large and valuable lot of machinery for farming purposes has been imported and is in successful use.	.. ..	There is no squatting in the division, but many of the farmers sublet land to natives, and by this means a considerable native population exists amongst the farmers over which there is no oversight, not being subject to the provisions of the Native Locations Act, and hence arise many cases of thefts of stock.
Swellendam ..	One or two reaping machines and two steam pumps, one at Swellendam and one at Heidelberg, have been introduced	.. ..	There are very few squatters in this division; none on Government ground, a few on the Zuurbrak lands.
Tarka	Reaping and threshing machines have been introduced.	Large tracts of land under cultivation Superior breeding cattle, sheep, and goats have been introduced. Wire-fencing is carried on to a great extent. Spiders, carts, and wagons are made here, for which there is a ready sale.	No squatting since the establishment of the divisional police in this district.
Tulbagh	Fifty reaping machines have been introduced Scythes are in more general use for reaping on hilly lands. Mechanical appliances for saving labour are in more general use.	Irrigation works are carried on to a great extent.	None.
Uitenhage	Reaping and threshing machines are gradually becoming more generally in use, the latter in some instances worked by steam power Several steam pumps have also been erected in different parts of the districts. All the latest improvements in machinery introduced	The severe drought of the last season has prevented any progress in any improvements adopted.	Squatting not permitted on Crown lands, but many proprietors of farms, by renting land to natives for grazing their stock, are sanctioning a sort of squatting, which is very remunerative to the owners of the farms